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Near East & South Asia

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6 April 1994

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli 'Working Paper' on Withdrawal, Police Detailed

NC0504102594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1004 GMT
5 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Apr (MENA)—Sources from the Palestinian and Israeli delegations have agreed that substantial differences are impeding the current negotiations in Cairo to implement the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

The sources said that these negotiations are going through "a crisis," despite some positive statements.

The Palestinian sources told MENA that the Israeli side continues to refuse to draw up a definite timetable for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and Jericho. They added that the Israeli side is also refusing to draw up a timetable for the entry of the Palestinian police and specifications for the type of weapons to be used by this force.

The Palestinian sources went on to say that the Israeli side, which has mainly used civilian negotiators with the exception of Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, wants to ignore the Palestinian military commanders' view of the security and military situation in Gaza and Jericho. They added that these commanders are demanding a definite timetable for the entry of their main forces into the Palestinian self-rule area in the Gaza Strip and Jericho area. They are also demanding an agreement on the type of weapons needed for these forces to achieve security in the areas from which Israel will withdraw.

The Palestinian sources said the Israeli side is offering the following measures in "a general and nonspecific working paper," which it called "a timetable" for withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho and for the entry of the Palestinian police force:

1. Setting up a temporary Palestinian-Israeli coordinating team and the entry of Palestinian commanders.
2. Setting up liaison offices for officers from both sides.
3. The entry of additional Palestinian commanders, between 20 and 30, and an early entry of a basic force of Palestinian forces, 300 people, within a week of signing the agreement.
4. Completing the withdrawal from the Gaza area.
5. Completing the withdrawal from the Khan Yunus area.
6. Completing the withdrawal from the Jericho area.
7. Establishing the Palestinian authority and the start of the Israeli withdrawal from the city of Jericho and Gaza.
8. The entry of the main body of the Palestinian police, between 1,000 and 1,500.

The Palestinian sources added that according to this general and nonspecific Israeli paper, agreement is to be reached on the timetable for starting the work of the

Joint Coordination Committee and the group of commanders and several additional commanders will then enter. But the Israeli paper explains that this measure might not be necessary.

The paper believes that the implementation of these steps will start two days after the signing of the executive agreement covering the Gaza-Jericho First Agreement and that the process of implementing its steps will take between one week and 21 days.

The Palestinian sources said the paper makes it clear that there is no indication either of a specific timetable for the entry of the remaining Palestinian police force, which, it was agreed on in principle will consist of 10,000 people, or of its weaponry.

According to Israeli delegation sources, the Palestinian side retreated from the Cairo Accord signed in early February by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in the presence of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat under the sponsorship of President Husni Mubarak.

The Israeli delegation sources told MENA: Had we pursued the negotiations on the basis of the Cairo Accord and the outcome of subsequent meetings, we could have reached agreement in two weeks. The sources noted that no such problems existed previously. The same sources say an agreement for the entry of 300 Palestinian policemen was supposed to take effect today.

The Israeli sources said talk of a timetable "blocks" the negotiations from the Israeli point of view. The same sources noted that Israel is committed to implementing the Cairo Accord and that Israel has indeed begun to dismantle camps in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, adding: But we do not see the Palestinian side serious about the negotiations.

The sources pointed out that no agreement has been reached on the Palestinian forces' deployment in Gaza and Jericho and that the Israeli withdrawal will not take place unless such an agreement is reached. The same sources referred to chief Israeli negotiator General Amnon Shahaq's threat to walk out.

Palestinian and Israeli sources said the other committees at the negotiations continued their work but that the water issue was not discussed because the experts from the Palestinian side who are concerned with this issue did not show up.

The Civil Affairs Committee continued working until 0100 today.

Hasan 'Asfur, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the Security Affairs Committee, summarized the situation for MENA, saying that the negotiations were difficult because they dealt with sensitive issues concerning security arrangements. He added that the two sides will continue discussing these issues to work out a solution. He affirmed that the Palestinian side is serious in its

efforts to reach an agreement and noted that the delay in the talks is due to the delay in issues concerning security. 'Asfur said: We hope we will not reach a situation where the negotiations will be threatened.

MENA has learned that the Palestinian side held a meeting this morning to coordinate positions and discuss the current stage of the talks.

Security, Civilian Affairs Committee Agendas Noted

NC0504133194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and Major General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff, held a closed meeting this morning to discuss topics related to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations currently being held in Cairo.

Earlier today, Palestinian and Israeli sources confirmed the existence of substantial differences between the two sides in the negotiations, particularly over the timetable for the withdrawal of Israeli troops, the entry of the Palestinian police force into Gaza and Jericho, and the arming of this force.

The meetings of the Security and Civilian Affairs Committees under the Gaza-Jericho Committee resumed this morning. The Security Committee is discussing a number of topics being disputed by the two sides, including the Palestinian police force's entry into the occupied territories, the exact size of the Jericho area, and the deployment of Palestinian forces in Gaza and Jericho.

The Civilian Affairs Committee is discussing the transfer of a number of powers, services, and utilities to the Palestinians as part of self-rule and in accordance with the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles signed in Washington on 13 September 1993.

Israeli Military Planner, Delegation Leave Cairo

NC0504204494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2028 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Apr (MENA)—Major General 'Uzi Dayan, the Israeli Army's chief of planning, and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo this evening.

Over the past two days, Dayan participated in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in Cairo. The talks revolved around ways of expediting the deployment of Palestinian forces in the areas that Israel will withdraw from in Gaza and Jericho and other security arrangements.

'Secret' Agreement Signed on Fatah Activists

PM0604083494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Apr 94 pp 1, 4

[Reports by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi in Tunis and Ilyas Nasrallah in London: "News of a Secret Agreement Between Israel and the PLO"]

[Excerpt] An informed Palestinian source has revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the security agreement on Hebron signed by the PLO and Israel the day before yesterday in Cairo was coupled with another secret agreement between the two sides, details of which have not been officially announced.

The source said that one of the secret agreement's provisions was Israel's agreement to allow 35 Palestinian deportees, all Fatah members, to return to the occupied territory. It is believed that these deportees will constitute a part of the security and administrative apparatus of the Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and Jericho. The agreement also provides for the revival of the Hebron Municipal Council under the chairmanship of Mustafa al-Natshah.

According to the same source, a list of the names of the 35 deportees is being prepared in Tunis. It is believed that the list will include names whose repatriation was requested by the PLO and rejected by Israel last year. The list, which will be submitted to Israel tomorrow, is expected to include Muhammad Dahlan, former official in charge of Fatah in the Gaza Strip; Jibril al-Rajub, former official in charge of Fatah in the central sector of the West Bank and current director of the commander in chief's office in Tunis; Samih Subayhat and Marwan al-Barghuthi, two Fatah activists who occupied the post of Bir Zayt University Students Union chairman at different times; Akram Haniyyah, former editor of the paper AL-SHA'B and current personal adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat; and Ahmad al-Dik, formerly a prominent Fatah figure in the West Bank and son-in-law of the late Khalil al-Wazir (Abu-Jihad).

It is believed that by agreeing to allow the repatriation of 35 deportees, Israel was trying to compensate for the killing of six Fatah members in Gaza last Tuesday. [passage omitted]

Paris Economic Talks Reportedly To Conclude

TA0504105994 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Cautious optimism is being voiced on the Israeli side on the eve of the resumption of the economic talks with the Palestinians in Paris. Close to 70 percent of the issues have been finalized, and the sides plan to conclude the remaining 30 percent in the sessions scheduled to begin tomorrow. Our economic affairs correspondent Shlomi Stein reports:

[Begin recording] [Stein] There has been a turning point in the Israeli position: Attainment of the economic

accord is no longer a prerequisite for the signing of a comprehensive agreement with the Palestinians. Commenting on the need to conclude all outstanding issues before signing the agreement, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin sounded less categorical this morning.

[Rabin] The least we need is a macro framework—which must also be included in the agreement—or temporary arrangements, which we could implement until a full economic accord is attained.

[Stein] In previous rounds, Israel presented to the Palestinians a 40-page draft accord, 70 percent of which has already been worked out and finalized with the Palestinians. Finance Minister Avraham Shohat noted today that his ministry has drafted a contingency plan in the event that Israel evacuates Gaza and Jericho before attaining a full economic accord and no longer has full influence over what is done in the field.

[Shohat] We have worked out an alternative, which we will present to the Palestinians. In practical terms, it is a one-sided move because it does not stem from an agreement on cooperation.

[Stein] Shohat voiced cautious optimism today, on the eve of his departure for Paris at the head of the Israeli delegation. [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah Warns Against 'Negative Phenomena' in Society

TA0504155294 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 3 Apr 94
p 2

[By special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Text] Rafah—Fatah issued a statement in which it warned Palestinians against some of the negative phenomena that have begun to be entrenched in society. It called for unifying efforts, potentials, and capabilities for the coming stage.

In its statement, Fatah referred to the phenomenon of the use and spread of weapons. It said: We do not want a militia state. The future belongs to knowledge and renovation. It accused the Israeli Government of being behind the spread of this phenomenon.

The statement also referred to the phenomenon of infringing upon public property and building on it for private purposes.

The statement mentioned the phenomenon of stopping traffic, and called on drivers to keep order by themselves.

The statement called on all Palestinian factions to unify efforts and adopt a collective stance toward these negative phenomena.

Fatah Issues Statement on Return of Deportees

TA0504142294 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 5 Apr 94
p 4

[By 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Barghuthi]

[Text] Ramallah—Fatah in the occupied territories has called on the Palestinian people to refrain from any ceremonial manifestations in welcoming the deportees who are returning to the occupied territories today.

In a statement issued yesterday, Fatah considered the return of the deportees to be a very small step toward the repatriation of all deportees, kinfolk, the displaced, and refugees to their homes and homeland.

The statement said that the Rabin government's goodwill should not be epitomized by the return of a number of deportees but by the release of all prisoners and the repatriation of all deportees. The statement demanded the deportees' return in one batch, because it said that the right of our people to return to their land and kinfolk is not subject to being divided into batches or numbers.

Fatah stressed that amid the enthusiasm of welcoming the returning brothers, our people should not forget the occupation's measures against them, which escalated recently. Since the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, 93 martyrs have been killed and hundreds wounded by Israeli soldiers.

In its statement, Fatah noted that past experience with the Israeli authorities, whether concerning the brother deportees or steps for a political settlement, prompts us to deal with any step extremely cautiously. We should place that step in its right context so that it will not be exploited by the authorities on the political and media levels to show that they had made some concessions to our people and, hence, refrain from restoring to us rights that have been and are being acknowledged by international laws.

The statement said that the reasons for deportation were merely an expression of a legal and human injustice against our brother deportees and our people and a violation of all international laws and norms, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Hamas Leader Welcomes Return of Deportees

TA0504081294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500
GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] In what some may regard as a positive sign, the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] organization has welcomed the return of the PLO deportees to the territories. Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of the leaders of the Islamic Movement in the Gaza Strip, told IDF Radio this morning that although he does not believe in the political process, those promoting it should be given a fair chance. Our Arab affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik reports:

[Begin recording] [Semrik] Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of the political leaders of Hamas in the Gaza Strip, has many memories of the time he spent at the deportees' camp at Mazra'at Bayt Nawfal in southern Lebanon. This morning, we called him at his villa in the Gaza Strip and asked for his reaction to the fact that the list of returning deportees does not include any members of organizations that have rejected the political process.

[Al-Zahhar, in English] Firstly, I would like to address the fact that I was one of the people who were deported since one year. I feel very happy on return, so I am appreciating and I think everybody here appreciating the return of the ex-deportees. We are happy for any Palestinian to come to his homeland.

[Semrik translates above into Hebrew and continues] Taking a very moderate tone, Mahmud al-Zahhar explained why Hamas is ready to give peace what he called a very big chance.

[Al-Zahhar, in English] We are going to give a very big chance for peace, but our assessment was and is still that this is not the proper way to achieve our basic demand. We will not participate in autonomy, but we will not put any hindrance for the implementation of autonomy. [end recording]

Hamas Calls For National Leadership in Territories

TA0504154794 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 5 Apr 94 pp 1, 19

[Text] Jerusalem, QUDS PRESS—With the imminent establishment of Palestinian self-administration and the expected arrival of senior Fatah officials to Gaza and Jericho, site of this administration, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has called for the election of a Palestinian national leadership in the occupied territories.

In a statement, Hamas called on all national forces and groups to meet and formulate a national program on the basis of the Israeli Army's full withdrawal, the removal of settlements, and the election of a national leadership that safeguards the right of the Palestinian people to obtaining their rights and to self-determination.

The statement proclaimed Hamas' rejection of the principle of reinstating former mayors instead of the current ones, some of whom were appointed by the Israeli authorities. It called for adopting the method of elections as the only means for choosing leading officials in municipalities, institutions, trade unions, and all popular bodies.

Hamas, which is resolutely opposed to holding talks with the Israelis, described the deployment of international observers in Hebron, expected to take place within a week, as a symbolic measure that seeks to justify the resumption of talks between Israel and the PLO.

The statement called on all Arab countries to exert pressure on the United States in the wake of its recent stance on Jerusalem, so that the Clinton administration would back down from this stance and declare that, in accordance with international law, the Palestinian territories are occupied. The statement urged the Arabs to adhere to the economic boycott of Israel and refuse to normalize relations with it.

Islamic Jihad on Cairo Agreement, Police Deployment

TA0504151494 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 4 Apr 94 pp 1, 19

[Text] Gaza—The Islamic Jihad Movement yesterday criticized the recent Cairo agreement signed between the PLO and Israel. Noting the continuing daily massacres being perpetrated against the Palestinian people's sons, it stressed that this agreement cannot protect even its supporters.

In its monthly statement, distributed yesterday in the Gaza Strip, Islamic Jihad said that the entry of the Palestinian police into the Gaza Strip and Jericho is no more than a failed attempt "to deceive the people."

The statement pointed out that in view of the Gaza-Jericho accord, the international police and forces will not be able to provide real protection to the Palestinian people.

The statement criticized the spread of large numbers of weapons among residents and said that honorable persons should not use weapons against the people.

The statement called on all political forces to impose on their cadres rules of ethics in order to confront this problem so that it would not turn into a muscle-flexing phenomenon and a means for intimidating and coercing people.

The statement referred to the phenomenon of killing individuals accused of collaborating with the Israeli security agencies and said that this issue is now causing great anxiety among the people and is raising questions and doubt about whether justice and truth were pursued when those executions were carried out.

The statement also noted the recent increase in strikes. It considered strikes to be a means for expressing rejection of the occupation, which should not turn into a means for proving one's self and factional muscle-flexing.

The statement called on all Palestinian factions and political forces to ease the burden of the masses and to refrain from exhausting them with more competing and repetitious strikes.

People's Party Rejects Cairo Agreement on Hebron

TA0504173794 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 3 Apr 94 pp 3, 7

[By Nasir Ahmad al-Rimawi]

[Excerpt] Ramallah—A statement issued yesterday by the Palestinian People's Party in Ramallah on the recent Cairo agreement stressed that this agreement will not achieve confidence or liquidate settlements and that it ignored the provisions of Security Council Resolution 904.

The statement said that just as the Security Council tried to cover up the crime, the second Cairo agreement came to complete the cover-up, ridicule the existing painful realities, recognize the status quo in Hebron, and affirm Israel's intention to sustain the settlers through the international presence and the Cairo agreement itself.

The statement said that the recent Cairo agreement does not provide any protection for the residents of Hebron and the occupied territories.

The statement noted that the removal of the settlers from Hebron is a necessary prelude to instilling a sense of confidence in the town's residents. This should be followed by negotiations over the dismantling of settlements in all the occupied Palestinian territories in respect of our people's right to their land and in conformity with international resolutions and the Fourth Geneva Convention, which forbids the confiscation of lands and the establishment of settlements on them.

The statement called for continued action to remove the settlers from Hebron as a prelude to liquidating the visible danger against the Palestinian people's security and their national rights epitomized by the presence of settlements and the Israeli occupation. [passage omitted]

Paper: Hebron Agreement Does Not Provide Security

TA0504190794 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 2 Apr 94 pp 3, 7

[Editorial: "We Demand That Our Delegation Be Clear and Frank"]

[Excerpts] Some believe that the crisis caused by the Hebron massacre has been resolved by the dispatch of international observers to this ill-fated town. Palestinian and Israeli negotiators are expected to resume their talks in Cairo on Sunday to discuss the next steps of implementing the Gaza-Jericho First stage. Palestinian officials have said that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat

agreed to the formula reached by Palestinian envoy Nabil Sha'th with Israeli negotiator Amnon Shahaq after obtaining "a private Israeli commitment" that Israel will gradually remove the settlers from the center of Hebron. This is what reports from the Palestinian side indicate, but Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres have categorically stressed that the evacuation of settlers from the center of Hebron is not included in any clause of the announced Palestinian-Israeli agreement nor are there any secret clauses. Here is the contradiction between what has been agreed upon and how each party interprets it!

It is certain, however, that the accord did not overcome the Palestinian people's concern for their safety or that agreement was reached to provide protection for them. Our people do not feel more secure today than before. If the agreement and the dispatch of international observers seek to deflect the anger against negotiations, what is taking place in the Palestinian territories reflects not only the dissatisfaction in Hebron but that of the entire Palestinian people with any agreement that is not preceded by the evacuation of settlers from the center of Hebron. This ordeal proves once again that the Palestinians faced Israeli and U.S. pressure alone, as well as that applied by some of the Arabs, while the other Arab states sat in the spectator's seat as if what is happening does not concern them at all. Here, we cannot but mention the stance of Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator of the peace process, in his meeting with President 'Arafat and the methods of pressure and warning that he used to force the Palestinians to return to the talks and refrain from inflating the Hebron massacre, as he put it! [passage omitted]

The Security Council tried to laugh at us with a resolution in which there was condemnation, denunciation, and high-sounding words. The result was that the Palestinians were forced to accept an agreement on Hebron that fails to respond to the minimal Palestinian aspirations for security and safety. What is the value of the international community's condemnation if it is not accompanied by unceasing work to implement international legitimacy's resolutions, foremost of all that which considers the establishment of settlements in the occupied territories illegal and an obstacle to peace?

We are facing a grave and delicate stage. The Palestinian orientation toward a settlement and peace does not mean that the road will be easy. There will be many stations that will confront our people with difficult tests, but Israel and its allies should not regard their methods as some kind of a sport where our people will accept what is unacceptable. The Israeli leadership should respond to the sincere Palestinian inclination to end the conflict so that each party will secure its rights, security, and stability.

PLO Reportedly To Open Office in Thailand

*LD0504193794 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 5 Apr 94*

[Excerpt] Brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], acting chairman of the governing body of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, arrived in Vietnam yesterday for an official visit as part

of his tour of Southeast Asia and China. Brother Abu-al-Lutf arrived in Hanoi after a three-day official visit to Bangkok during which he met Thailand's foreign minister. A spokesman for the Thai Foreign Ministry announced that agreement has been reached in principle between the PLO and Thailand on opening a PLO office in Bangkok. He said that the two sides have agreed on the opening of the office, but have not yet agreed on the details. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Politician Seriously Wounded in Assassination Bid

LD0604111094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1100 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Security services today announced that there was an attempt on the life of Mr. Mehdi Abbas Allalou, chairman of the Popular Association for Unity and Action, at 0930 this morning in the El Kouthbane district of Mohammedia. According to the same source, the victim was seriously wounded and has been taken to hospital.

Egypt

Al-Asad Concludes Meetings With Mubarak, Visit

Information Minister Comments

NC0504123694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1003 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Statement by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif following talks between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad in Cairo on 5 April—recorded]

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Egypt comes within the framework of continuous consultations between the two countries and presidents. Several rounds of talks have been held. The two presidents held private talks and the Egyptian and Syrian delegations also met.

The talks covered many issues of common concern. International relations, international developments under the new world order, and regional, Arab, and Islamic issues were discussed.

The talks also covered several important issues. The overall Arab position was reviewed. The two emphasized the efforts made by both countries to clear the Arab atmosphere and cement Arab solidarity.

Other issues also figured in the talks, most notably the Yemeni crisis and the efforts to overcome this crisis. Egypt and Syria believe that these efforts should continue because of the dire consequences the crisis holds for Yemen's unity, a unity that we all hope to preserve.

The two parties reviewed the Libyan-Western crisis and the Egyptian and Arab efforts to stop the escalation of sanctions against Libya. The two leaderships see a need for further cooperation and coordination in this regard.

Concerning Somalia, Egypt and Syria see a need to achieve reconciliation and agreement among the Somali factions. The Somalis should be encouraged and helped to rebuild their country. The Egyptian and Syrian sides also reviewed the situation in Sudan, stressing the need to preserve the unity of Sudan's land and people during the dialogue concerning the problem in south Sudan.

Another topic broached during the talks was peace. The two sides discussed that issue in full detail, reviewing the current talks and consultations concerning the Middle East peace process and highlighting the need to make this peace a comprehensive and just one. The two parties reviewed some of the obstacles facing the peace process and the factors affecting it. The two parties discussed the common vision and principles leading to progress in the Arab-Israeli peace process. In this connection, the efforts and consultations of the international community and the United States were discussed.

The Egyptian and Syrian sides reviewed the peace process on every track, particularly the Syrian and Palestinian, always emphasizing the comprehensiveness of a regional settlement in the Middle East and the need to achieve a just peace.

The Nonaligned Movement was discussed and emphasis was placed on the group's upcoming meeting in Cairo and the need to consolidate the role of the Nonaligned Movement and enhance cooperation among Third World countries. Perhaps these were the most important issues discussed on the international, regional, and Arab levels.

The two presidents and the meetings of the two delegations discussed bilateral ties. The Higher Egyptian-Syrian Joint Committee will meet on 15 May. The committee will discuss cooperation between Egypt and Syria in the political, economic, cultural, social, and other fields and several joint ventures.

Pan-Arab Issues Discussed

JN0504115894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo—President Hafiz al-Asad and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak resumed talks in a closed meeting held at the permanent headquarters of the Egyptian Presidency in Cairo at 1115 Damascus time [0815 GMT] today.

Talks dealt with the Arab situation, inter-Arab relations in light of the current developments and circumstances, and the importance of working to improve inter-Arab relations and for an Arab solidarity that serves both the Arab nation's pan-Arab interest and the pan-Arab issues.

Al-Asad Concludes Visit, Departs

NC0504113294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1104 GMT
5 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Apr (MENA)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and his accompanying delegation left Cairo this afternoon following a two-day visit to Egypt.

President Husni Mubarak led the officials who saw the Syrian president off at Cairo Airport.

Mubarak Comments on Talks

NC0504130094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT
5 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today called Egyptian-Syrian relations very strong. Speaking to journalists just after seeing off Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Mubarak said that he and President al-Asad discussed the Middle East peace process and examined ways of restoring Arab solidarity to its former state and resolving differences within the Arab family.

Answering a question from MENA, President Mubarak said that his talks with President al-Asad also touched on the Yemeni crisis and the disputes between the north and the south. We also discussed the Libyan-Western crisis, he said.

President Mubarak said: We talked in general about the issues of concern to the entire Arab world.

Answering a question on whether the Egyptian-Syrian summit explored ways to end the crisis facing the current peace process, Mubarak said: We did not get into details, but I would like to say that we discussed the issue of peace, bearing in mind the recent meeting in Geneva between President al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

President Mubarak added: I think that there was tremendous hope for the continuation of the peace talks, and then the incident in Hebron forestalled and complicated the process.

President Mubarak expressed his full confidence that Syrian President al-Asad wants peace. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin shares this view and also wants peace, he added. President Mubarak expressed his hope that negotiations will resume in the last week of April in Washington. He said that he hoped there will be flexibility in the negotiations so that peace can be achieved this year without further delay.

Asked by an Israeli television reporter if he had discussed the peace negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track with the Syrian president, President Mubarak said: Yes, we talked about it. I would like to emphasize that President Hafiz al-Asad cares about peace and wants to reach a solution to the problem, a just and honorable solution. President Mubarak expressed his belief that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is also following the same line and wants peace. President Mubarak added: I hope that there will be flexibility in the Arab-Israeli bilateral negotiations, which I believe will be resumed in the last week of April. He added: I hope they will reach a peace agreement before the end of this year.

Asked if he means flexibility on the part of Israel, President Mubarak said: Actually, the flexibility must come from both sides, although more flexibility is needed from the Israeli side so that we can give momentum to the peace process. In this regard, President Mubarak emphasized that peace deserves every

sacrifice because it means life to the peoples that enables them to live safely, cooperate, and come together. He added: Now, they do not come together because there is a problem that has existed for almost 50 years. We cannot expect to just push a button and have all parties come together and embrace. It takes time. Peace is important to every individual, whether an Israeli or an Arab.

Asked about Syria's position on the Golan, President Mubarak said: The Golan is Syrian territory, and it is hard to ask Syria to give up an inch of the Golan. He added: I am not imposing this on Israel but I say what I believe; that is, peace must be in return for land, otherwise, the peace process will remain difficult.

Asked about the current situation on the Israeli-Palestinian track, President Mubarak said: As you know, the Hebron incident has complicated things. But I believe that they have reached an agreement to secure the Hebron region and are now continuing the negotiations on how to implement the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. I hope they will finish this quickly although some minor obstacles still exist, but I am confident they will overcome them.

In response to another question if there are proposals to resolve the Syrian-Israeli problem, President Mubarak said: The matter is clear; the Syrian land must be returned, which would mean the return of peace, with some security measures that could be taken. The president referred to the Madrid conference for Middle East peace. He said: The conference has played its role. All parties have met and now everybody must get down to direct agreements among themselves.

Asked whether a meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin can help achieve a peace agreement, President Mubarak said: Such a meeting will help resolve problems. We have tried this several times. But the Syrians do not agree to such a high-level meeting at present. When they reach a peace agreement, such a meeting will not be a problem.

On his upcoming visit to Japan and China sometime this month, President Mubarak said: We have good relations with China. There is great cooperation between us. Japan is an important country and cooperates with us. Japan has given economic aid to Egypt. We expect more cooperation during our visit.

On the national dialogue committee, President Mubarak said: Once I return from China and Japan I will meet with the dialogue committee to draw up the bases for its work so that it will start its activity and adopt the necessary recommendations. On the date the committee will start its work, President Mubarak said that once the committee meets, the wheels will start turning.

Asked whether he discussed with al-Asad the issue of [words indistinct] states that export terrorism, President

Mubarak said: We did not discuss this problem. I hope all this will disappear. Let us concentrate on the peace process.

'Arafat Arrives in Cairo for Meeting

NC0604093094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT
6 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo this morning on a visit to Egypt, during which he will meet with President Hosni Mubarak. 'Arafat was received at the airport by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif.

Meets With Mubarak

NC0604104194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT
6 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—President Muhammad Hosni Mubarak received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis today. 'Arafat arrived in Cairo earlier today.

Musa Comments on Syrian-Israeli Negotiations

NC0504134994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT
5 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stressed that a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan would mean a peace agreement between the Syrian and Israeli sides could be reached. In a statement he made today, Musa added: I believe that everybody agrees on this.

Asked if he thinks progress could be made on the Syrian-Israeli track following Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Egypt that ended today, Musa said: Naturally, on the basis of land for peace.

Minister Musa was asked if this means that the ball is now in the Israeli court, he said: As far as the Israeli withdrawal is concerned, the ball is indeed in the Israeli court now.

Sudanese Airliner Hijacked, Lands at Luxor Airport

NC0604064894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT
6 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—Unidentified men diverted a Sudanese airliner coming from Khartoum and forced its captain to proceed to the Luxor airport, where the airliner has landed.

The Boeing 737 airliner with 93 passengers and six crew members on board took off from Khartoum en route for al-Danaqilah in south Sudan. The hijacker forced the captain to fly to Egypt. Defense Minister Field Marshal Husayn Tantawi gave permission to the airliner to land at the Luxor airport. The hijacker is a Sudanese national and is asking for political asylum in Egypt.

Hijacker Surrenders to Authorities

NC0604074094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0733 GMT
6 Apr 94

[Text] Luxor, 6 Apr (MENA)—The hijacker of the Sudanese airliner has surrendered to Egyptian authorities. The real reasons for hijacking the airliner have not yet been determined.

Libya

Government Agrees To Hand Over Aozou Strip 1 May

AB0404142594 Ndjamenia Radiodiffusion Nationale Tchadienne in French 0530 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Communique issued by the Office of the President's Press Attache on withdrawal from the Aozou Strip in Ndjamenia on 4 April]

[Text] The Chadian delegation, led by Interior Minister Abderamane Izzo, which has been staying in Tripoli for a week, is said to have reached an agreement with Libyan authorities on their withdrawal from the Aozou Strip. A joint communique outlining the modalities for the withdrawal is expected to be signed today in the Libyan capital. The agreement was reached [words indistinct] starting 15 April under the supervision of a commission comprising 25 Chadian officers, 25 Libyan officers, and five officers selected by the United Nations.

The setting up of a minesweeping operation, including 20 Chadian and Libyan specialists is also envisaged. This exercise will take place both in Aozou and within a radius of 100 km and up to the border with Libya. This operation is expected to end by the end of April. Finally, the two delegations agreed that the official turnover of the Aozou Strip to Chad will occur on 1 May 1994.

This agreement, which was reached exactly two months after the decision of the International Court of Justice [ICJ] recognizing Chadian sovereignty over Aozou, is an important event in the relations between Chad and Libya. [Words indistinct] situation in the next few days, in accordance with the wishes expressed by President Idriss Deby, a day after the ICJ verdict, [words indistinct].

Al-Muntasir on Egypt's, Turkey's Lockerbie Efforts

NC0304112394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT
3 Apr 94

[Text] Ankara, 3 Apr (MENA)—'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for Foreign Relations (foreign minister), has praised Egypt's efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Lockerbie crisis between Libya and the West.

Al-Muntasir, who is currently visiting Turkey, said in an exclusive interview with the MENA correspondent in

Ankara that President Mubarak has held intensive contacts with the leaders of the United States, Britain, and France for this purpose, but the West is insisting on the need to bring the suspects to trial in the United States or Scotland.

The Libyan official said that Libyan laws do not permit the handing over of Libyan citizens to other countries to face trial unless they agree to it. Therefore, the regime cannot force these citizens to give themselves up.

He noted that Libya has proposed several alternatives to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, such as holding the trial in a neutral country, but Libya has received no response yet.

Al-Muntasir said there were some problems between Libya and Turkey because of Libya's debts to Turkish companies. These problems have been solved, he said. He noted that Turkish-Libyan relations will witness a new start, particularly after the trade agreement between the two countries is signed on 17 April.

He added that the current freezing of Libyan assets has not greatly affected the Libyan economy because these assets are in the form of stocks and bonds. But the effects of this decision will become clear and will have a greater effect when these stocks and bonds mature soon. Therefore, Libya wants to settle the problem with the West before then.

Al-Muntasir noted that Turkish officials have promised to do their utmost to end the economic blockade imposed on Libya by the United Nations, which is also affecting Turkey. The Libyan official did not specify the nature of the efforts Turkey will make, however.

Draft Resolution on Dialogue To Resolve Crisis

NC0404183994 Cairo MENA in English 1705 GMT
4 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—Libya has submitted a draft resolution to the Arab Labour Organisation appealing to the UN Security Council to reconsider its decision of imposing sanctions on Libya.

The draft resolution, which will be discussed by the seven-day 21st session of the Arab Labour Conference which began here today, says that the appeal is made in view of the great harm suffered by the Libyan people and Arabs working in Libya as a result of the UN sanctions.

The draft resolution calls for dialogue and negotiations to reach a fair legal settlement of the Libya-West crisis (over Lockerbie).

Al-Qadhdhafi Statement on Relations With Britain

LD2703163794 Tripoli JANA in English 1450 GMT
27 Mar 94

[Text] Tripoli, 27 Mar—The brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi] has made a statement

to the Jamahiriya News Agency on the occasion of the evacuation of British bases from the Arab Libyan territory in which he said:

Britain should have maintained her good relations with Libya, as Libya was not within the British share during the past colonialist barbaric era, but was within Italy's. Italy had practiced on the Libyan people all the savagery, decadence, and lack of morals and conscience towards humans and animals that are characteristic of Western civilisation. This led to the creation of animal protection and care associations, yet no association of any kind has appeared for the protection and care of humans, and particularly the Muslims and the Arabs.

The Libyans had joined the ranks of the allies against the Axis out of their volition and their desire to liberate their country. They provided significant assistance which helped the British Army in Libya to score victory over the Axis forces on this battlefield.

There should have been a mutual recognition of favor by the Libyans and the British, and that should have been maintained in order to build good relations between the two countries. However and most regrettably, Britain had ignored all that and allied herself with the devil against Libya. We can not find a justification for that except anti-Semitism and anti-Islam, or an illogical protest against the Libyan people's practice of their right in revolution and independence.

We appeal to the government of Britain and its parliament to reconsider her hostile attitude to the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and to give priority to the mutual interests that could be realized in friendship over the running after a mirage, rejected ambitions and false allies.

Libya will reciprocate hostility with hostility and peace with peace. Peace be upon those who follow the right path.

Sudan

Minister Begins Legal Action Against Closed Daily

EA0504221094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio
Network in English 1800 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The justice minister and attorney general, 'Abd-al-Aziz Shiddu, has directed the supreme prosecution attorney in Khartoum State to adopt legal procedures regarding violation of the daily AL-SUDAN AL-DUWALI of Section No. 6 of the penal code related to circulation of false news. He also directed the concerned authorities to conduct preliminary investigations of some of the issues published by the daily.

He underlined that those who raised claims on corruption and malpractices at the state government institutions will be required to prove their claim. On application of the emergency law against the daily, Shiddu said

that the law is valid in spite of the fact that it has not been applied in many cases in the past period so as to ensure stability of the political system.

Paper 'Cast Doubt' on Armed Forces

NC0404174994 Cairo MENA in English 1700 GMT
4 Apr 94

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Apr (MENA)—The Sudanese authorities today suspended AL-SUDANI AL-DUWALI newspaper. The decision was taken under the emergency laws.

A statement by the Sudanese Presidency, carried by Omdurman radio today, said that the paper cast doubt on the struggle of the Sudanese Armed Forces and called for separation and abandoning the unity of the country and disintegrating national unity. It also dealt lightly with the prestige of the revolution and its symbols without any justification.

Gunmen Try To Kill Reporter

NC0404182894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT
4 Apr 94

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Apr (MENA)—Unidentified gunmen yesterday tried to kill Sudanese journalist Muhammad Taha Muhammad Ahmad, a reporter for AL-SUDANI AL-DUWALI, which the government suspended today. The journalist sustained superficial wounds.

The Sudanese journalist, who published several antigovernment articles in the newspaper lately, is known to oppose the government.

Minister: U.S. Does Not Want 'Islamic State'

JN0504143394 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic
4 Apr 94 p 6

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, minister of culture and information, by Kamal Hasan Bakhit in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Bakhit] Sudanese-U.S. relations are facing a continuing crisis. The United States always confronts Sudan at international forums. Indeed, it endorses the Sudanese statement opposing the government. The question is: What does the United States want from Sudan? Are there any non-Sudanese forces behind the hardline U.S. stand toward the Sudanese Government?

[Sabdarat] First of all, the United States wants Sudan to abandon its cultural awakening plan. After the collapse of the socialist camp, the United States now believes that it is a real danger to have Islam as the second major power after the United States. In other words, the United States believes that the power of Islam and Muslims cannot but be the second major power. Therefore, it is in principle against Islam. In fact, the United States is against religions because its real religion is materialism.

So, it does not want Islam to be the alternative to the capitalist collapse, which will eventually afflict the Western camp as it afflicted the socialist camp. The United States believes that Sudan is the model for a new Islamic state, one that is different from those Islamic states in which Islam is a mere facade—just the way the United States wants it to be. Therefore, killing this model has become the main concern not only of the United States but also of Britain, which is more hostile, and of Western countries, in general.

I believe that the issue of Bosnia is an example of this inclination. These Western countries do not at all want the establishment of a fully Islamic state in the middle of Europe. They also do not want an Islamic state in the middle of Africa or the Middle East or in strategic places anywhere in the world. Hence, the United States' hostility toward Sudan does not target a certain party, it is a continuous and blatant hostility toward Islam. It is also a conflict of cultures. This is a well known conflict, even though it remained hidden in many occasions. However, it now began to emerge in its real blatant form.

[Bakhit] How do you explain the stand of Aldo Ajo Deng, former deputy speaker of the parliament, in terms of seeking political asylum in Britain and in terms of joining the opposition?

[Sabdarat] I believe that Aldo Ajo became convinced that his generation has no place in Sudan after he saw that rulers of Sudanese regions and commissioners comprise a new generation. He saw that his generation, which created part of the Sudanese movement, has a weak future. Moreover, he had an ambition of becoming the vice president. However, he found out that a young man from the new generation would take that position. Then, he and others were subject to many temptations. He believed other people's talk about an approaching end to this regime. He succumbed to pressures and followed the road he is on now.

[Bakhit] What are your expectations about the talks to achieve peace?

[Sabdarat] I always believe that sitting at a dialogue table is a sound start. However, it is not always certain that those who sit around this table will end up achieving peace. The available facts confirm that the rebel movement has no alternative to dialogue. After it has been encircled, the rebel movement cannot achieve any goal on the military level. Practically, the movement cannot depend on the outside world in order to separate the south because this issue is also an issue of war. The separation of southern Sudan cannot be achieved by a UN decision. Even if the United Nations and the entire world imposed this, the south would remain part of Sudan. Sudan has sacrificed thousands of martyrs for the sake of maintaining its unity. The issue remains inflamed and the war continues. Therefore, I believe that the movement is at its weakest and its only means of saving face is peace. This is especially true since the model we are establishing now is a practical model. We

are making real peace on the ground in Bahr al-Ghazal, the Upper Nile, and vast parts of Sudan's Equatoria. We are doing so through development and work so that the model of peace inside Sudan will be that of real peace. I believe that if the rebel movement understands these facts, peace can be achieved.

[Bakhit] However, the government has constants that cannot be shaken and so does the rebel movement. The question is: How can peace be achieved? Don't you think that the issue will turn into a useless dialogue?

[Sabdarat] First of all, the rebel movement does not have any constants. At one time, it talked about a federation, then about a confederation, and later about self-determination (separation). Now, it is talking about sharing authority and wealth. Hence, there constants are tactical. We will not change our own constants, which

stipulate that Sudan is one united country and that a federation is the ideal model for rule in Sudan. Therefore, I believe that when the rebel movement demands its right to self-determination, it is asking for the maximum in order to achieve the minimum of what it wants.

[Bakhit] A short time ago, the government announced that two foreign military aircraft penetrated Sudan's airspace. What is the story behind this? In other words, how true is this?

[Sabdarat] The truth is that two warplanes flying at an altitude parallel to that of civil airplanes were monitored. Some quarters and Arab and foreign ambassadors were informed about this. There is an ongoing investigation to find out the identity of these warplanes and their objectives. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Yemen's Salih Holds Talks With Amir, Departs

JN0504112294 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT
5 Apr 94

[Text] Doha, 5 Apr (WAKH)—A round of official talks was held in Doha this morning between His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatar's heir apparent, and senior officials from both countries.

The Qatari News Agency noted that the talks dealt with the situation in Yemen, [words indistinct], the peace process in the Middle East, and the overall Arab and regional developments. The two leaders also exchanged views on ways to reinforce Arab solidarity and consolidate and develop bilateral relations.

The Yemeni president left Doha today following a two-day visit to Qatar. He was seen off at the airport by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, and senior Qatari officials.

United Arab Emirates

Zayid, Yemen's al-Bid Discuss Yemeni Crisis

JN0304104294 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the head of state, received at the Rawdat al-Rif rest house this morning Mr. 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council in the Republic of Yemen. Al-Bid briefed his highness on the latest developments of the Yemeni situation and efforts to end the political crisis. Views were exchanged on current Arab developments.

His highness the head of state emphasized his concern for Yemen's stability and national unity. His highness said: Our care for our brothers and kinsfolk in Yemen is equal to our care for our own people and country. He added: Contributions from any of our brothers toward solving problems in Yemen deserve all appreciation and respect from his brothers because Yemen's stability and security is in the interest of all.

For his part, 'Ali Salim al-Bid praised his highness' pan-Arab stands, wise leadership, positive initiative, and continuous efforts for the progress and safety of the Arab nation in general and Yemen in particular. Al-Bid said: We have come to you fully confident of your efforts and endeavors of which we are proud in order to serve Yemen and its progress.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, the deputy prime minister; His Highness Lieutenant General Muhammad Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, the chief of staff of the Armed Forces; His

Highness Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Khamis Bayk al-Rumaythi, director of President Zayid's office.

Yemen

Salih Views Talks With Omani, Qatari Leaders

JN0504152494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, returned to Sanaa in God's protection at 1330 today after paying official visits to the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Qatar.

He led a high-level delegation to the two countries, and held talks with his brothers His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar. His talks dealt with the fraternal relations between our country and both sisterly countries, the current developments in our country, and the efforts to contain the political crisis and safeguard the national unity march, in addition to the regional, Arab, and international issues and developments of interest to our country, to fraternal Oman and Qatar, to the region, and to our Arab nation.

On his arrival at Sanaa International Airport, the brother Presidential Council chairman made a statement. He said: We are satisfied with the outcome of our visits to Oman and Qatar and with the talks we held with my brothers His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar. These talks were positive and fruitful. We sensed a sincere fraternal understanding of the overall issues discussed, whether regarding the ongoing developments in our country, the regional issues, or the Arab developments of interest to our country, to both sisterly countries, and to our Arab nation.

He added: The talks particularly dealt with developments in our country and the exertion of efforts to contain the political crisis and its negative repercussions on the national situation as well as its threats posed to stability in our country and the region.

Chairman Salih concluded: We were pleased with the understanding and care shown by our brothers in Oman and Qatar who emphasized backing for our people and their unlimited support for Yemeni unity and democracy as a national gain for our people and as a pan-Arab gain for the sons of our Arab nation.

A session of official talks between our country and Qatar was held at the Amiri Court in Doha at 0930, Sanaa time, today. The session was led by brothers Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of fraternal Qatar. [passage omitted]

Talks dealt with Yemeni developments. The brother chairman briefed his brother His Highness the amir of Qatar on the outcome of the efforts and mediations being made to achieve national accord in our country, contain the political crisis, end all its negative repercussions, and implement the document of pledge and accord. The latest of these efforts was the meeting held between brothers Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, and his deputy, 'Ali Salim al-Bid, in Salalah in the presence of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of fraternal Oman.

Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani reaffirmed Qatar's care for Yemen's unity and its support for all efforts and good offices designed to end the crisis between the brothers in Yemen and to spread security and stability throughout Yemen in order to preserve the gains of the fraternal Yemeni people. The amir of Qatar also expressed his great confidence in the wisdom of both the leadership and the various national and political forces and in their ability to circumvent this crisis and respond to the Yemeni people's aspirations.

Talks also reviewed the recent developments in the Middle East peace process and regional developments. The two leaders also exchanged views on all that would enhance Arab and Islamic solidarity. Moreover, the talks dealt with ways to consolidate and promote fraternal relations in various fields in a way that will benefit both sisterly countries and peoples.

Reports on Salih-al-Bid Meeting Termed 'Inaccurate'

JN0504204294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] A responsible source has stated to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA, that a number of news agencies and newspapers have carried inaccurate reports on the proceedings of the meetings that took place in the Omani city of Salalah between brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, and brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, in the presence of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman, and the subsequent bilateral meeting between the brother chairman of the Presidential Council and his deputy. The source regretted the unjustified confusion and anxiety that those incorrect reports have caused among the public. The source indicated that although those meetings did not emerge with the results that all Yemenis had looked forward to, they did help stress the need to abide by the pledge and accord document and to swiftly implement the decisions that the Council of Ministers made during its meetings in the economic and trade capital [Aden], especially regarding security and military issues.

YSP Accuses Northerners of Mobilizing Forces

JN0604055894 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Yesterday, Yemeni southerners accused northerners of mobilizing forces on the former border between the two parts of Yemen, considering this a serious military escalation. This came in a statement by Ahmad 'Abdallah Salih, deputy secretary of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP].

A responsible source at the General People's Congress [GPC]—a northern official—responded to these accusations by saying that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih rejected, during the Salalah meeting, a southern proposal implying divisionist trends, calling for returning all northern and southern military units to their pre-unity positions.

The same source noted that the Yemeni Presidential Council will not be able to hold its scheduled meeting tomorrow because the second man in the YSP refuses to come to Sanaa to participate in the meeting.

It is noteworthy that the Yemeni Presidential Council is a collective presidential body including five members—three from the North and two from the South. The two members from the South are 'Ali Salim al-Bid and his deputy Salim Salih Muhammad.

Salih Telephones King Husayn on Internal Situation

JN0604062394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, this evening telephoned his brother, His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the sisterly Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

They discussed issues of mutual interest. The brother chairman reassured his brother, His Majesty King Husayn, about the situation in our country. He also briefed him on the latest efforts to contain the political crisis in our country through the reactivation of constitutional agencies and implementation of the accord document.

The brother chairman expressed his profound thanks and appreciation for his brother, His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal, for the continued efforts made by his majesty and the brothers in Jordan to enable our country to overcome the crisis and safeguard Yemeni unity and stability. The brother chairman also expressed thanks to all brothers and well-meaning people in the Arab nation and the region for their concern about the developments in our country, as well as their concern for the security and stability of Yemen and support for Yemeni unity, since this issue, although a Yemeni affair, is of interest to all the sons of the Arab nation and the region.

The brother chairman wished the fraternal Jordanian people further progress and prosperity.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry Official Departs Sanaa
JN0504154394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Brother Ambassador Badr Hammam, assistant Egyptian foreign minister and the Egyptian president's envoy, left Sanaa today after a visit to our country lasting several days.

During the visit, he conveyed two messages to brothers Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, from brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The messages dealt with relations between both fraternal countries and developments in the political crisis that our country is experiencing. The Egyptian official also met with several officials in our country. [passage omitted]

Diplomat 'Obstructed' Planned Warsaw-Sanaa Arms Deal

PM0504155694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Apr 94 ppl, 4

[Reports by Hammud Munsir in Aden and Lutfi Shatah in London: "Yemeni Diplomat Obstructs Arms Deal Between Sanaa and Warsaw"]

[Excerpt] Muhammad Sharaf, the Yemeni charge d'affaires in the Polish capital Warsaw, has obstructed an arms deal worth hundreds of millions of dollars which the northern leadership in Sanaa was arranging through a contract between the Economic and Military Foundation, whose name has recently been changed to the Yemeni Economic Foundation, and the Polish Arms and Foreign Trade Company.

The deal included what has been described as "internationally banned fragmentation bombs," aircraft, spare parts, and various types of other weapons including light ammunition.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the charge d'affaires refused to grant visas to five of the Polish company's senior sales officials. He also informed the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leadership in Aden of the situation on the grounds that the deal was part of the military repercussions of the Yemeni political crisis and that it would undermine Yemen's national Army.

Colonel 'Abdallah al-Hadrami, director of the Yemeni Economic and Military Foundation, had sent a letter to Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah in Sanaa asking him to grant the delegation a visa to enable it to complete the agreement on the deal, but Sharaf refused to carry out the foreign minister's instructions and the visit was suspended. The delegation was supposed to arrive in the Yemeni capital on 6 April.

YSP officials in Aden have raised questions about the source of funds for such a deal and also about the attitude of the Foreign Ministry or rather about the way the Yemeni leadership used that ministry, bearing in mind that Basindwah had issued a circular to all Yemeni diplomatic missions instructing them to refrain from any actions that would reflect partisan views and urged foreign states to deal directly with the Foreign Ministry.

Yemeni sources have confirmed that Sanaa has recently opened two offices for the purchase of arms in the Russian capital Moscow and the Ukrainian capital Kiev. In a telephone statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in London, they said that a well-known Yemeni businessman was supervising the Moscow office and negotiating contracts on behalf of the north Yemeni leadership with the Russian authorities, some covering 60 fragmentation bombs, each worth \$350,000, as well as missiles which have been shipped to al-Hudaydah port through Bulgaria.

The sources said that Muhammad Sharaf, the Yemeni charge d'affaires in Warsaw, contacted the home of Yemeni Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas in the evening of the day before yesterday while the Yemeni Political Forces Dialogue Committee was in session, and informed him of the matter. Al-'Attas then reported what he heard directly to the Dialogue Committee. [passage omitted]

Saddam Chairs Revolution Command Council Meeting*JN0304163094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Apr 94*

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has presided over a meeting of the Revolution Command Council.

Air Force Chief Makes 'Mystery' Visit to Amman*PM0604084094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Apr 94 p4*

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Air Force Commander on Mystery Visit to Jordan"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed Jordanian sources have revealed that Iraqi Air Force Commander Staff Lieutenant General Muzahim Sa'b al-Hasan al-Tikriti is now in Amman. The sources declined to give the date of the Iraqi military commander's arrival in Amman or the nature of his mission there.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Iraqi military commander was staying at the Forte Grand Hotel. There was a fire on one floor of that hotel yesterday morning in which two Italian tourists were killed and 12 persons, including four Iraqis, were burned or suffered from smoke inhalation.

Jordanian Parliament Delegation Arrives on Visit**Al-Nahar on 'Unjust Embargo'***JN0204201594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Apr 94*

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Apr (INA)—A delegation from the Jordanian House of Representatives arrived in Baghdad this afternoon on a visit to Iraq at the invitation of the National Assembly. The delegation is led by 'Abd Musa al-Nahar, deputy speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives.

In a statement to INA, al-Nahar urged the Arab nation to intensify efforts on the Arab and international levels to lift the unjust embargo against Iraq and to support the people of Iraq to enable them to achieve their legitimate aspirations for progress.

He also praised the steadfastness of the Iraqi people under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn in the face of the U.S.- Atlantic-Zionist conspiracy that targets the Arab nation and its civilization. He pointed out that the people of Jordan view with admiration and appreciation the heroic actions of their brothers in Iraq in defense of the nation's honor and dignity against the odious foreign aggression that seeks to assassinate all human and cultural aspects of life.

The delegation is made up of 14 members who represent various Jordanian political parties.

Delegation Meets Assembly Speaker*JN0304132594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 3 Apr 94*

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Apr (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today received a delegation from the Jordanian House of Representatives led by Deputy House Speaker 'Abd Musa al-Nahar.

During the meeting, they reviewed Iraqi-Jordanian parliamentary ties and means of promoting them in the interest of the two fraternal countries. They also reviewed Arab and international developments in light of the continuation of the U.S.-Zionist conspiracy spearheaded by the United States and its partners, which is targeting Iraq and its unity.

The meeting was attended by the deputy speaker of the National Assembly and several chairmen of the Assembly's permanent committees.

Tariq 'Aziz Receives Group*JN0504150194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 5 Apr 94*

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Apr (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz today received a delegation from the Jordanian House of Representatives headed by Deputy House Speaker 'Abd Musa al-Nahar.

The deputy prime minister explained in detail the human suffering and the [word indistinct] effect of the unfair embargo, which certain tyrannical and domineering parties at the UN Security Council seek to perpetuate, despite the fact that Iraq has fulfilled its commitments, which obliges the UN Security Council to lift the embargo clamped on Iraq in fulfillment of its reciprocal obligations.

Tariq 'Aziz commended Jordan's courageous stands in support of the Iraqi people, and urged parliamentarians as well as all organizations and well-intentioned people in the world to redouble their efforts to lift the unfair embargo clamped on the Iraqi people.

For his part, the deputy speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives reiterated the Jordanian people's support for and solidarity with the fraternal Iraqis. He commended the Iraqis' steadfastness and firmness in their confrontation of the aggression and in their handling of the unfair embargo.

Cuban Foreign Ministry Official Holds Talks**Meets Prime Minister***JN0204152294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1438 GMT 2 Apr 94*

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Apr (INA)—Prime Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir has asserted that the UN Security

Council is required to lift the embargo clamped on Iraq, particularly since Iraq has fulfilled all its commitments.

During a meeting today with Nicolas Rodriguez, under secretary at the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Relations, the prime minister added: Iraq has been done a flagrant and monstrous injustice as a result of the arbitrary anti-Iraq resolutions the UN Security Council passed under U.S. pressures. Nonetheless, Iraq has fully honored its commitments toward these resolutions to remove the pretexts and excuses the United States and Zionism are using to perpetuate the unfair embargo clamped on Iraq, and also to expose the aggressive and malicious intentions of the evil and aggressive powers.

The prime minister went on to say: Iraq's steadfastness and the firmness of its unique leadership, represented by his excellency the president, have thwarted the enemies' designs and exposed their positions even at the UN Security Council. This has been manifested in the emergence of new trends at the UN Security Council demanding that a new approach be used in handling the anti-Iraq embargo, particularly since Iraq has fully honored its commitments toward the relevant resolutions passed against it.

Prime Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir also reviewed with the Cuban Foreign Relations Ministry official the impact of the treacherous 30-state aggression, as well as the reconstruction drive the Iraqis have been engaged in under His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. He noted that the Iraqis have rebuilt in record time the infrastructure destroyed by the evildoers. The Iraqis have viewed the reconstruction campaign as a counteroffensive, he added.

For his part, Nicolas Rodriguez said he hoped that friendly bilateral ties will be promoted. He added that his current visit to Iraq is aimed at holding consultations with Iraqi officials to achieve this objective.

Meets Tariq 'Aziz

JN0204130994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Apr (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz received here today Nicolas Rodriguez, under secretary of the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Relations.

During the meeting, the talks addressed the friendly bilateral ties and the means of promoting them despite the embargoes clamped on both Iraq and Cuba.

The talks also addressed the imperialist U.S. policy, which seeks to perpetuate the iniquitous embargo clamped on Iraq, although Iraq has fulfilled all its commitments. The two officials also discussed the wicked embargo the United States is imposing on Cuba and its people to achieve tendentious political purposes.

The two sides asserted that adherence to independence is the best weapon to be used in confronting embargoes and conspiracies.

The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary and the Cuban charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Chinese, Cuban Envoys Urge Lifting of Siege on Iraq

JN0204154494 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 26 Mar 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Majid al-Lami, Nabil al-Wadi, and Hiyam Ahmad]

[Excerpts] Calls for lifting the unjust siege imposed on Iraq are intensifying on the official and popular levels.

These calls urge the Security Council, the United Nations, and humanitarian organizations to expedite serious action toward ending the siege since Iraq has responded to all Security Council resolutions.

Chinese Ambassador in Baghdad Zheng Dayong emphasized China's principled and firm position in support of Iraq and its continuous efforts aimed at lifting the siege imposed by the states of aggression.

At a meeting with Health Minister Dr. Umid Midhat, Zheng urged the international community to stop this tragedy that the Iraqi people are facing, which has increased fatalities among children, the elderly, and women as a result of scarcity of food, medicines, and basic human requirements.

He emphasized that the siege has entered a dangerous phase on which silence should not continue because this is a pure humanitarian subject.

The ambassador emphasized the importance of expediting the unfreezing of Iraqi assets abroad so that Iraq can buy medicines and food, and keep the ghost of death away from innocent children. [passage omitted]

Cuban Ambassador in Baghdad (Luis Mas Reyes) emphasized his country's firm position in rejecting the continuation of the siege imposed on the Iraqi people.

The Cuban ambassador conveyed the greetings of the Cuban parliament speaker to Sa'di Mahdi Salih, the National Assembly speaker, and his eagerness to foster friendly relations with Iraqi parliamentarians.

During his meeting with Dr. Anwar Qasirah, chairman of the Iraqi-Cuban Parliamentary Friendship Committee, the Cuban ambassador expressed his appreciation of the relations between the Iraqi National Assembly and the Cuban Parliament and the willingness to foster these relations and coordinate positions at regional and international parliamentary meetings.

Explosive Device Under UN Car Defused

(Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic
1600 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Yesterday morning, Monday, a special unit of the general [word indistinct] forces defused a timed explosive charge in [place-name indistinct] placed under a UN car.

Reporting this today, KURDISTAN NWAY newspaper said the explosive charge, in the form of a manual plastic battery, was discovered and defused at 0800.

UN Guard 'Seriously Wounded' in Ambush

NC0504173094 Paris AFP in English 1642 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Nicosia, April 5 (AFP)—Gunmen shot and seriously wounded a Danish UN guard in an ambush Tuesday [5 April] in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq, security officials in the area said.

The guard was shot in the chest as he was driving from al-Sulaymaniyah to Irbil, and later underwent an operation, said the sources contacted by telephone from Cyprus. They did not give any information about the assailants.

The attack came only two days after an AFP correspondent, German-born Lissy Schmidt, and her bodyguard were killed by unidentified gunmen in the al-Sulaymaniyah area close to the Iranian border.

Since the start of the year the UN has reported 13 attacks against foreigners in Iraqi Kurdistan, which have left one person dead and seven wounded.

One of the main Iraqi Kurdish groups, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), said earlier in a statement from Damascus that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's regime had "promised a reward of 10,000 dollars to anyone killing a foreigner in Kurdistan."

Schmidt was the only foreign journalist permanently based in Iraqi Kurdistan, controlled by the Kurds since their uprising against the Baghdad regime following the January-February 1991 Gulf War.

U.S. Official's 'Absurd Accusation' Criticized

JN0604092894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Apr (INA)—An official spokesman in Baghdad said today the accusation made by U.S. State Department spokesman Mike McCurry yesterday—that the Iraqi Government is behind the killing of several foreigners in the Kurdistan region—is an absurd accusation. It shows to what extent the U.S. State Department is deliberately seeking to mislead public opinion and not tell it the truth about the deteriorating security situation in that region.

The Iraqi spokesman said the Kurdistan region, which is under U.S. protection and control, is rife with thugs, armed men, and thieves. The people there do not dare go out at night or travel between cities and villages. Incidents of killing and robbery by highwaymen in Kurdistan occur almost daily.

The spokesman added that the newspapers run by the armed cliques in the Kurdistan region are full of complaints and criticism about the deteriorating security situation. The newspapers daily accuse the Kurdish authority of being unable to control its armed men and from time to time publish reports about armed robberies and holdups committed by those armed men. Sometimes, those armed groups fight over spoils. They also trade accusations in public about who is responsible for the deterioration of security in the region from the warlords in the region, Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani and other leaders of the armed cliques who were armed by the Americans.

The Iraqi spokesman added that the U.S. State Department's accusation of the Iraqi Government is clear disinformation and political deception. It is part of the U.S. blind hostility to Iraq.

AL-'IRAQ: U.S. Embargo Objectives 'Thwarted'

JN0504154894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has asserted that the United States is experiencing growing frustration because its criminal objectives against Iraq and its people have been thwarted.

In an article published here today, the paper adds: The United States is going to the limit in its aggressive approach. It is flouting all laws and norms, including the unfair resolutions passed by the UN Security Council.

The paper goes on to say: Those endowed with an analytical mind that enables them to read between the lines are well aware of the reasons prompting the United States to proceed with its anti-Iraq campaign. These reasons are manifest in the way the United States is managing this campaign.

The paper says: And within this context falls the bizarre U.S. position at the UN Security Council, and the U.S. determination to overlook the fact that the reasons for maintaining the anti-Iraq embargo have been fully removed, that Iraq has fulfilled its commitments toward the UN Security Council, particularly with regard to Resolution 687, and that the world body must honor its commitments toward our country through the rapid implementation of Paragraph 22.

AL-'IRAQ adds: It is the U.S. colonialist policy, which is rooted in hegemony and a willingness to do the impossible to promote the image of the Zionist entity as a key regional player, that is pushing the United States to

circumvent this resolution, and to obstruct the crystallization of any fair relevant position that could be entertained by the other members of the UN Security Council. This was made clear during the UN Security Council's recent periodic review session.

AL-IRAQ concludes by saying: The rancorous and intransigent U.S. position, which professes to uphold legitimacy and international law, has nothing to do with either of the two. As a matter of fact, it is the outcome of an evil and frenzied endeavor to weaken Iraq and cripple its pan-Arab and humanitarian role.

The paper urges the parties that have taken a constructive and fair position inside and outside the UN Security Council to promote their positions in the interest of true legitimacy and international law, which the United States seeks to undermine in order to advance its own interests and the interests of its agents and stooges, as well as its evil schemes.

Paper Assails 'Irrational' Clinton Threats

JN0504182894 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 31 Mar 94
p 1

[Article by Salah al-Mukhtar: "Waffling President Clinton Believes That Animal Rights Must Assume Precedence Over Human Rights"]

[Text] Nowadays, the waffling President Clinton seems careful to provide additional proof of his lack of balance, his lack of discrimination, and his lack of cognitive potential. For only yesterday, he threatened to impose economic sanctions on the PRC, which is currently enjoying most favored nation status. The reason is not the PRC's rejection of U.S. conditions, foremost among which is accepting the U.S. concept of human rights. We would like to say it again that Clinton's threats against the PRC were prompted neither by human rights issues, nor by the PRC position that the new Korean crisis created by the United States should be resolved peacefully.

What then could be the reason? This time, Clinton seeks to reaffirm that he has departed from the realm of common sense and entered the realm of the irrational. He has threatened the PRC, saying that it will be

subjected to economic sanctions if does not halt its extermination of a certain species of tigers. Just imagine the waffling president, heir of criminal George Bush, seeking to impose economic sanctions on the PRC just to preserve Chinese tigers that are threatened with extinction.

The waffling President Clinton has become too blind to see his own lack of common sense and good reasoning. Nonetheless, when the survival of Chinese tigers is at stake, he too becomes vulnerable. He becomes willing to launch an economic war against China. By contrast, he is unwilling to halt the massacres he helped unleash in Iraq, Palestine, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the former Soviet republics, and elsewhere, in which scores and hundreds of people are killed every day. The reason is that the United States seeks to colonize the world after it has caused catastrophes, tragedies, genocides, and the rape of hundreds of thousands of women.

Have you ever heard of such nonsense? We have seen a semblance of waffling President Clinton's kind-heartedness on the face of his envoy Rolf Ekeus when he wept as skillfully as an actor, and then wiped his tears so he could proceed with his work, which is justifying the cold-blooded and heartless genocide targeting Iraqis.

Has humanity ever stooped so low? Have we ever seen a hypocrite, a liar, and a double-faced man as waffling President Clinton, who is defending animal rights while butchering and torturing thousands of people every day?

Businessman Reportedly Dies in 'Planned' Accident

JN0504195694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation, a body affiliated with the Iraqi National Congress, which is composed of organizations opposing the Iraqi regime, has said that Al-Hajj 'Abd-al-Latif al-Hajj Mahmud Bunniyah was killed in an accident planned against his car while he was traveling to Jordan. The corporation said that Bunniyah, who is from one of the most important merchant families in Iraq, had recently criticized Baghdad's financial policy which led to the deterioration of the Iraqi dinar.

Car Bomb Explodes in 'Afula; Death Toll Rising

Preliminary Report Says 5 Dead, 36 Injured

LD0604111194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1030 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Excerpts] First to 'Afula where a car bomb exploded three meters from a bus. Latest reports say five people were killed, another 35 at least wounded. The incident occurred near a cultural center. Apparently there was a suicide bomber in the car. Neil Samba has the story. Neil:

[Samba] The explosion occurred at around 1230 near the cultural center of 'Afula not far from the town's ... er, in the center of the 'Afula, not far from the town's main auditorium. Latest reports speak of five dead and 35 injured, but these figures are changing and constantly being updated. Reports from [words indistinct] say that the injuries range from light to serious. Some of the injured were on the bus and others were waiting at a nearby bus station. All of the injured are being taken to the (?Haemic) hospital. The evacuation continues at this hour. We've just heard though that two of those seriously injured were taken to Haifa, Haifa's Rambam hospital. Northern district police commander Jacob Grenel was the first to confirm that it was in fact a car bomb that exploded near an Egged bus, but he said it's not clear whether it was a suicide bomber or whether the bomb was set off by remote control.

The explosion took place three to four meters from a bus stop. [passage omitted]. Dozens of ambulances arrived on the scene within minutes after the explosion and the police closed off the area. Police reinforcements were sent into the town and engineers are combing the area. The center of 'Afula has been closed off. [passage omitted] A lot of details are still unclear at this time.

Update: 8 Dead, More Than 50 Wounded

TA0604124494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] According to the latest reports from 'Afula, eight people were killed in the car bomb explosion, apparently including the terrorist who drove the car. More than 50 people were wounded in the explosion. Five people who were gravely wounded were transferred to the Rambam Hospital in Haifa, where one of them died of her wounds. Another four wounded are currently being transferred to the Tel Hashomer Hospital. Eight of the wounded were released; 33 people were hospitalized in the 'Afula Hospital with light to moderate injuries.

Police Minister Shahal and Police Commissioner Peled arrived at the scene. Minister Shahal said that since the Hebron massacre the Police feared Arab terrorist attacks, and several attacks were indeed foiled. Commissioner Peled said that it is possible that as of tomorrow no vehicles from the territories will be allowed entrance into the Green Line, because it is inconceivable that Israel would allow inhabitants of the territories to enter

the Green Line to carry out attacks. The issue of the closure will also be reassessed. The commissioner added that the timing of the attack—40 days after the Hebron massacre—did not surprise the police, which were recently reinforced along the Green Line and in Jerusalem.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the car used for the explosion was stolen from the Tel Aviv area. Migdal Ha'emeq [a town near 'Afula] residents have started to congregate en masse, and the police are acting to prevent acts of revenge.

Rabin Testifies at Shamgar Commission Hearings

TA0604103294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] A few minutes ago, Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister, wrapped up his testimony before the Shamgar commission. His testimony lasted five hours and was given on camera. The prime minister came out from a side door and refused to answer journalists' questions. Our legal affairs correspondent Hadar Vismansky reports:

Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister whose face we did not see today at all because he walked in and came out through a side door to evade the cameras, gave a long testimony. For five long hours, Rabin was questioned on camera by the five members of the commission of inquiry. He was accompanied by the legal adviser of the Prime Minister's Office and by Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein.

The prime minister's testimony actually concluded the commission's 15th day of work and the first stage of the hearings. Within the next few weeks, the commission members will meet in order to formulate their initial conclusions and to decide whether any people are liable to be affected by these conclusions. If there are such people, they will be sent warning letters and be summoned for another hearing, this time accompanied by their lawyers.

As said, the first stage of the Shamgar commission's work is over. Over the next few weeks, the commission will proceed with consultations.

Peres Urges Ramon Not To Quit Labor Party

TA0604064694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says he would prefer to advance the negotiations with Jordan at this point, but regretfully, that side has recently evinced hesitancy. When asked which country was our first priority, Syria or Jordan, Minister Peres replied: A great deal depends on them; we will be serious with whoever is serious.

Interviewed by our correspondent Karmit Gay this morning, Minister Peres called on Knesset Member

[MK] Hayim Ramon not to quit Labor both for his and the party's sake. Shim'on Peres revealed that he had met twice with Hayim Ramon last week to try to talk him out of his plan. Peres said Ramon belongs in the government, and his stepping down had been a blunder.

The foreign minister rejected Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin's accusations, saying no one was pushing MK Ramon out of the party.

Minister 'Uzi Bar'am has also said that Ramon should remain in Labor. He criticized Labor Secretary General Zvili's remarks, made in Washington this morning, against Hayim Ramon.

Beilin: Possible Ramon Exit From Labor 'Tragedy'

TA0604060894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Hayim Ramon is expected to announce on 10 April whether he will run on an independent list in the Histadrut elections. Our correspondent reports that Mr. Ramon invited Likud MK Me'ir Shitrit to fill the second slot on his list. MAPAM [United Workers Party] has agreed to join Ramon's list, while Meretz is yet to decide its stand.

MK Me'ir Shitrit said he was still undecided whether to make the move. The Likud candidate for Histadrut chief, MK Ya'akov Shamay, said Hayim Ramon's announcements might be designed to pressure Yitzhaq Rabin to reinstate him as cabinet minister.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said it would be tragedy for the Labor Party if Hayim Ramon left it to run independently for the position of Histadrut chief. He believed the public health issues over which Ramon had waged a struggle are valid, but the thinking that these issues could be solved outside the party was erroneous. Yosi Beilin leveled criticism at senior Labor officials for showing Ramon the way out, as he put it. I would do everything possible to prevent his secession from the party, the deputy foreign minister told our correspondent this morning.

Shahal on Police Evacuation From Gaza, Jericho

TA0504172794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The Israel Police are completing their preparations for withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho. Police Minister Moshe Shahal said today that the Israel Police would evacuate their personnel within the very next few weeks, rather than the originally planned four months. Our correspondent 'Ofar Vardi spoke with the police minister:

[Begin recording] [Vardi] Upon the evacuation and the redeployment in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, the Israel Police's Gaza District will be renamed the Shimshon District, Minister Moshe Shahal announced today in a

meeting with journalists in Tel Aviv. Policemen are busy organizing the said withdrawal which, according to the police minister, will take effect soon.

[Shahal] Israel Police troops will initially evacuate police stations and Gaza's central prison, according to the timetable stipulated by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. This timetable will apparently be shorter than the four months originally planned. I believe we are now talking about very few weeks.

[Vardi] This fast withdrawal, however, will not change the Israel Police's plans to reinforce its troops in the territories.

[Shahal] We have started discussing the issue, but the debate has not yet been concluded. We are mainly dealing with the second phase, the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, which will call for additional troops; we are requesting an addition of some 1,400 policemen. Our immediate requirements in order to carry out first phase of evacuating the police stations in Gaza are: building stations in the Qatif Bloc, creating a police district near Gaza, integrating police personnel into the border terminals planned by the IDF, and reinforcing the border terminals in Rafah and especially at the Allenby Bridge especially. [end recording]

Palestinian Deportees Return to West Bank, Gaza

NC0504161794 Paris AFP in English 1514 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Jericho, Occupied West Bank, April 5 (AFP)—Twenty-six Palestinians who were exiled by Israel returned to the occupied territories on Tuesday [5 April] to bolster preparations for self-rule, military officials said.

The group, nearly all from PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah movement, crossed the Allenby Bridge from Jordan at the second attempt after the Israeli authorities at first refused to accept 23 of their 46 relatives.

The officials said the group had completed formalities, been issued identity cards and would shortly pass out of the Israeli side of the border post.

Another couple of dozen Palestinians were being processed at the Rafah border crossing from Egypt into the Gaza Strip following a deal between Israel and the PLO in Cairo last Thursday.

Of the 26, one is a communist, one independent and one from Yasir Abd-Rabbuh's moderate Fida' group.

The rest are Fatah men considered vital to efforts to build autonomy in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

The exiles were expelled or wanted by the Israeli authorities and had fled abroad since Israel seized the territories in 1967.

Further on Deportees' Return

TA0604050794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Some 51 Palestinian deportees and former fugitives crossed over from Jordan and Egypt yesterday evening. The men, many of whom will be in positions of authority under Palestinian autonomy, were welcomed by thousands of people. About 28 deportees returned via the Allenby Bridge to Jericho, and reporter Mark Weiss was there when they arrived:

[Begin Weiss recording] It was a long wait in the Jericho sun for the relatives and friends who came to greet the deportees at the Allenby Bridge crossing. Because of registration problems at the border, the bus bringing the deportees didn't cross until 8 o'clock in the evening [1700 GMT]. Army jeeps escorted the bus by a back road to a restaurant outside Jericho where the men received a hero's welcome. [passage omitted]

In contrast to the group of elderly veteran deportees that were allowed back last year, this group is mostly made up of younger intifadah activists or those deported for student or trade union activity. They are expected to take up leadership positions throughout the territories, as Fatah and the other groups that support the peace process attempt to win over the population. They hope that their return is just the beginning. [end recording]

At the same time, at the border crossing at Rafah in Gaza, 23 deportees arrived. Dani Gur-Arye reports:

[Begin recording] [Gur-Arye] Palestinians destined to become the new bureaucrats in the Gaza Strip returned home to a warm reception. Dozens of friends and relatives greeted the returnees at the Rafah terminal, while hundreds of others waited outside, chanting and waving the PLO flag. [passage omitted]

The returnees, mostly Fatah members, have credentials both in Gaza and in Tunis. They were all grass roots intifadah activists, who were either deported or who fled to Egypt as fugitives. In their years abroad, they were incorporated into the PLO's leadership in Tunis. Now they are back in the Strip, with authority from above and with what the PLO hopes is respect from below.

The head of Fatah in Gaza, Zakariya al-Agha, describes the return as a positive gesture. But, he says, the Palestinians are waiting for more serious steps.

[Al-Agha] I hope that we will see in the near future the complete evacuation of Gaza from the settlements and settlers, because this is very important and this will remove a large obstacle from the road to attain the full peace we are looking for.

[Gur-Arye] The returnees are expected to begin working out of PLO offices in Gaza in the coming days. Officials in Tunis hope their presence will bolster Yasir 'Arafat's position in the Gaza Strip. [end recording]

Observers Said To Deploy in Hebron 'Next Week'

TA0504150494 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The multinational observers will apparently begin deploying in Hebron next week. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres determined today after meeting for the first time with representatives of the countries participating in the force. The foreign minister added that the 160 observers from Italy, Denmark, and Norway will mainly engage in administrative duties: 60 of them will report on the situation in the field directly to the Israeli security forces, and the other 100 will advise the Israeli Government and Hebron Municipality in a bid to attain a normalization of the situation in the city.

Focus on Negotiations With Syria Viewed

TA0204095094 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (SHVIT SHEL PESAH supplement) in Hebrew 1 Apr 94 pp 26-28

[Article by No'omi Levitsky: "Scenario on Syria"]

[Text] The more the negotiations with the PLO on security arrangements in Hebron progressed, the more heads turned north to the main focus, Syria. When the Hebron agreement was completed in Cairo on Wednesday, Damascus once more drew our attention because since his latest meeting with Clinton, Yitzhaq Rabin has been fully aware that the moment of truth over the Golan Heights can no longer be put off.

And it is now clear to all, Shim'on Peres, Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, the Army top brass, but more than anybody else, to Rabin himself, that immediately after the Gaza-Jericho agreement is completed, the time will come to do real business with Hafiz al-Asad. Clinton made it clear to Rabin: He wants a settlement with Syria, and fast.

In fact, the new fare, prepared according to an American recipe, is already being readied in the political kitchens. There are no longer semantics like: "Al-Asad must first define the substance of the peace and then we will define the depth of the withdrawal." It is no longer "the depth of the withdrawal will depend on the depth of the peace." The time has come for a new ball game.

It is unclear who invented this brain wave. There are those who point to Dennis Ross, head of the U.S. peace team. There are others who claim that Rabinovich presented the new formula, while there are still others who have once again observed Peres' fingerprints, since he is the most creative member of the band. Whatever the case, the Americans believe that a redeeming formula, which will extricate the negotiations with Syria from the deep freeze, has been found. That formula is called a package deal.

Before Passover, when Ross and his peace team came to Jerusalem from Damascus, they brought the al-Asad message. Up to then, he had also insisted on first hearing

an unequivocal Israeli declaration that it is prepared to withdraw from the entire Golan Heights. Al-Asad has now changed that tune and is playing new music, which is very pleasant to Ross' sensitive ears.

With open glee, Ross told Rabin that al-Asad has agreed to talks in terms of a package deal. In other words: Peace with all its trappings, security and all its trappings, withdrawal, Golan Heights, Lebanon, and all that involves. "I believe," al-Asad told Ross, "that a package deal has to be offered. Peace, security arrangements, U.S. involvement, Lebanon, withdrawal, a timetable. Everything. Okay, I agree to Israel presenting a comprehensive package deal."

The Americans were thrilled. They believe that toward the end of summer an agreement of principles will be signed between Syria and Israel. They can already imagine a repeat of the signing ceremony for the Oslo agreement on the White House lawn. Al-Asad and Rabin, or Peres and Faruq al-Shar'. A boost for Clinton's somewhat pale image.

Rabin is worried. In Washington he met a restive, even nervous Clinton, who kept moving in his chair and who seemed to be suffering from a backache. The Whitewater affair, which refuses to vanish from the headlines, left its marks on him. Rabin received the impression that Clinton is looking for international achievements, hoping that this will deflect the spotlight from the unfortunate affair in which he is stuck up to his neck.

The Americans nearly always support Israel in relation to the Palestinians, yet Rabin found Clinton in a different mood in relation to the negotiations with al-Asad. Clinton told Rabin al-Asad has already said he agrees to full peace with Israel, and that he (Rabin) knows Israel will have to withdraw from the Golan. He (Clinton) therefore fails to understand why Israel refuses to finalize things and sign the agreement. Rabin told Clinton there are security problems. Clinton answered that in the security sphere the United States is the address and will provide security arrangements.

And now the package deal is being worked out. The United States is indeed the address for security issues. Immediately after the Gaza-Jericho agreement is signed, Israel will intensify its work on formulating its proposal to al-Asad. The proposal will be finalized in anticipation of the resumption of the Washington talks in late April and another shuttle round of the region for Christopher.

Until recently al-Asad behaved as though he had all the time in the world, but now he has made a certain shift and is behaving as though he is pressed for time. Rabin, for his part, counted up to now on semantics, settling for the occasional word on the Syrian issue. Now he too understands this game is over. Now everyone is talking business. The general working assumption is now full withdrawal in exchange for full peace. Everything else stems from this.

The Israel-Syria border has been under dispute for years. There is no clear and fixed border between the two countries, no Green Line. There is the border line known as the 4 July 1967 border, which at a certain point almost reaches Lake Tiberias, and there is the international border. According to this border all of Lake Tiberias and the southern slopes of the Golan Heights, including al-Hammah, are parts of historic Palestine. As far as Israel is concerned this is not Syrian territory.

There will probably be a sharp argument for years after a peace agreement with Syria is signed over which of the two borders is the correct one. It is possible that the seeds of an arbitration process similar to the Taba arbitration are already being sown.

Israel, even when it recognizes Syrian sovereignty on the Golan Heights, will fix its sight on the international border. Even when it agrees to say "complete IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal," it will not specify where to. It will demand, on the other hand, a timetable of eight years, but will gladly settle for six years.

Peres, Rabin, and Rabinovich realize that the problem is that al-Asad is thinking about the Egyptian model. Israeli withdrawal in the south was conducted in three stages over a period of three years. Al-Asad will also demand a three-year withdrawal process. There is also the problem of the settlements. With Egypt we only had the problem of the Rafah Approaches settlements, and that was limited to the third and last stage of withdrawal. The Golan Heights, on the other hand, is completely covered with settlements—12,000 settlers are spread over all parts of the Golan Heights.

Whenever he picks up a map of the Golan, Rabin's heart probably sinks. Whichever way he turns it, however he may shape the package deal, he will have to deal with one settlement or another in the first stage of the withdrawal. A withdrawal, however minor, will per force have to include Aloney Habashan, to cite just one example.

That is why in the package deal being formulated by Israel Rabin wants to leave the settlements the option of evacuating if they wish, or remaining under Syrian sovereignty. Al-Asad is hardly likely to agree to such an arrangement, and neither is any Jewish settlement. The Americans realize that, and so does Rabin. However, just as in the case of Netzarim and Hebron, he prefers to create a situation whereby the settlers themselves will want to leave rather than forcing him to evacuate them. A matter of character.

Of course, Israel demands a full demilitarization of the entire Golan Heights. The Syrians agree, but demand the demilitarization of an area equal in size within Israeli territory. According to this scenario, the entire Galilee would be demilitarized. However, the point is that nobody is taking this Syrian demand seriously. Negotiating games—this is how it is dubbed in Washington.

In contrast, a demilitarization of the Golan is a sine qua non. When Clinton told Rabin that he was the address

for security matters he really meant it. Washington is prepared to send a military force to the Golan to uphold the peace treaty. At this point, reference is to two U.S. Army brigades which would deploy in the Golan Heights, two early-warning stations—one Israeli and one Syrian—and joint Israeli-Syrian control of the water sources.

Mount Hermon is a problem onto itself, a real security problem. Israel plans to wage a real battle over this mountain, "the eyes of Israel," as a Golani Brigade soldier nicknamed it in the Yom Kippur War. If Israel loses it, Israel will demand an appropriate reward from Clinton.

An arrangement with Lebanon has a place of honor in the package deal. To date the Lebanese delegation has been conducting some kind of make-believe negotiations in Washington, seeing that it is clear to all that Lebanon is just a marionette, a Syrian puppet on a string. Henceforth, negotiations about an arrangement in south Lebanon will be conducted in the most official way possible, as part of the negotiations with Syria and the package deal.

Israel is prepared to withdraw from south Lebanon and does not object to a continued presence of Syrian troops in Lebanon. In exchange, it demands that Syria totally disarm Hizballah and all other Palestinian terror organizations in Lebanon. Israel would initially withdraw from the town of Jazzin. Later, after a six-month trial period, it would proceed to implement the second phase of the withdrawal. Israel would go ahead with the withdrawal only if all terror activities against Israel and the security zone including against the SLA [South Lebanese Army], stopped.

The SLA is in a bind. It has been angry ever since Operation Accountability and the arrangement Syria imposed on Hizballah, whereby Hizballah may not fire katyusha rockets at Qiryat Shemona but may fire them at Marj 'Uyun. What is wrong with you, Antoine Lahd asked, is the blood of Israeli children redder than that of Lebanese children? The SLA feared Israel had abandoned them. As far as they were concerned, this was a sign of things to come.

Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, had to work hard to placate the SLA. Perhaps through Lubrani's doing, Rabin is now demanding from the United States that the SLA be part of the package deal with Syria and that the United States assume responsibility for the well-being of its personnel after Israel's withdrawal. According to the emerging deal, the SLA would become a regional brigade within the Lebanese Army. Antoine Lahd has already given his consent.

Al-Asad, who is in a hurry to reach an arrangement with Israel, is playing his Lebanese card for all it is worth. Last week, when Ross asked him to rein in Hizballah in south Lebanon, al-Asad replied: If Rabin wants quiet in the north, let him work out a comprehensive arrangement with me.

One must admit that Rabin is not having an easy time of it: Almost endless difficulties in the Gaza-Jericho deal, the horrible massacre in Hebron which disrupted the timetable, hurt the delicate and fragile equilibrium, and fully exposed the regrettable hatred, racism, and hostility toward the Arabs. Rabin told Clinton that al-Asad must persuade the Israeli people that he really means peace and must take steps to build its confidence.

As far as Rabin is concerned, the joint news conference held by Clinton and al-Asad in Geneva was a big miss, as he put it. He had expected al-Asad to appeal to the Israeli nation, to look straight into the camera and tell Israelis that what he has in mind is true peace, that they can trust him, that there will be no more wars; something along the lines of what al-Sadat said. Instead, al-Asad barred Israeli journalists from the news conference, mumbled a few words about peace, and let Clinton explain what he had in mind.

Ross conveyed Rabin's remarks to al-Asad. It would be very wise, Ross told him, if you were to make some confidence-building step vis-a-vis Israeli public opinion. Rabin, too, has difficulties, he said. Al-Asad promised Ross he would do something. This is the message Ross brought to Jerusalem. Now everybody is looking forward to mid-April, waiting with bated breath for the dramatic step promised by al-Asad.

Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States and chief negotiator with Syria, has in his own way been trying to persuade the Syrians to make some move. Rabinovich wants the Syrians to invite a group of Israeli journalists to Damascus. These should not be Arab or Druze, but Israeli journalists bearing Israeli passports, without any kind of religious, racial, or sexual discrimination.

"If you are not prepared to invite Israelis to Damascus at this point," Rabinovich told the Syrians, "at least arrange a meeting between Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Israeli journalists outside Syria at a venue of your choice, in Europe or in the United States. You must, you simply must open up to the Israeli media," Rabinovich said.

Two moves made by al-Asad were perceived by Washington and Jerusalem as confidence-building measures. The first was to allow Syrian Jews to leave the country, and the second was to permit the visit of an official U.S. Congressional delegation to look into the question of Israeli MIA's. However, as far as Israeli public opinion is concerned, these moves were not dramatic enough.

The problem lies with a difference in perceptions. What al-Asad considers a confidence-building measure and what Rabin does are as far apart as Jerusalem is from Damascus. Al-Asad even regarded the visit of 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah with a delegation of Israeli Arabs as a real sacrifice on his part, as a compromise, as a confidence-building measure. Rabin expects a different thing altogether, to put it mildly.

At some point al-Asad consented to informal talks between Israeli and Syrian academics. Three meetings were held in which Israel was represented by Dr. Yosi Olmert, Ze'ev Schiff, and 'Amos Gilbo'a. A minor scandal ensued when the meetings were publicized. Rabinovich told Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the talks in Washington, that the subsequent Syrian repudiation of the meetings could not be construed as a confidence-building move.

On the eve of Passover, in an interview with IDF Radio, Rabin spoke about a new phase in the negotiations with Syria. "Of course, I look forward with faith," he said. "Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon have already agreed to resume the Washington talks at the end of April. I believe they will take a somewhat different form.

"There will no longer be algebraic-like formulas defining what constitutes peace and what constitutes withdrawal, but rather a far more comprehensive view of peace and withdrawal as packages, withdrawal in stages without committing ourselves to the final line and, of course, security arrangements and the subsequent U.S. aid."

Rabin also mentioned confidence-building measures. He does not just mention them, but whenever the opportunity arises he appeals to al-Asad and asks him to make a move. "Al-Asad," Rabin told IDF Radio, "is no al-Sadat. Al-Asad has a different approach which makes progress in the peace process more difficult. The State of Israel and its people are democratic. The Israeli public has to be convinced that the Arab leader it is negotiating with really means peace and is willing to hold public meetings at the most senior levels.

"At this stage of the negotiations with Syria, only relatively low-level contacts have been held. If this does not change at some stage—if higher-level contacts are not held, if the Syrian media does not show greater openness, if Syrian leaders do not issue clearer public statements on their intention to reach peace—it will be very difficult to make progress in the negotiations."

Some change began to emerge in the latest round of talks in Washington. In fact, the talks reverted to tete-a-tete sessions between Rabinovich and al-'Allaf, with Dennis Ross joining them on occasion. The Americans have been keeping a high profile in the talks with the Syrians.

However, the talks between Rabinovich and al-'Allaf look more like a diplomatic war of attrition than like peace talks. Rabin claims that al-'Allaf does not have enough powers. On the other hand, Rabinovich is Rabin's confidant. He arrives at the talks with powers and leeway, and seated opposite him he encounters a junior clerk who cannot move even one inch without al-Asad. As far as Rabin is concerned, there are only two options: Either replace al-'Allaf or give him leeway.

In a private session this week Peres said that they would seriously proceed to tackle the negotiations with Syria immediately upon the completion of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. As everybody knows by now, when Peres says seriously, he definitely means it. As far as he is concerned, serious negotiations mean overt diplomacy to prepare public opinion, official talks, and high-level meetings such as between foreign ministers. However, more than anything else, as far as Peres is concerned, serious negotiations mean secret talks.

'Arafat Leads Delegation on Visit to Amman**Makes Arrival Statement**

JN0504160294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman today on a visit to Jordan.

He was received at the airport by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the prime minister; Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, the information minister and minister of state for cabinet affairs; Faysal al-Husayni, the head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation; Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Yasir 'Amr, PLO Executive Committee members; al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian ambassador in Amman; and Muhammad Qudsiyah, the commander of the Palestine Liberation Army in Jordan.

In a statement to journalists upon arrival at Amman Airport, 'Arafat said: I am visiting Jordan to have the honor of meeting with His Majesty King Husayn to exchange views with him at this important time. His Majesty King Husayn has always been close to the Palestinian people and their national cause, may God watch over him.

Answering a question on the deportees' return, the Palestinian president said: This is another positive sign down the road. He expressed the hope that more deportees will return. In this regard, he said: I will leave actions to speak for themselves. He added: The talks are still taking place with Israel on various issues. I hope that progress will also be made at the economic talks which will be held in Paris tomorrow.

Concerning the security of Palestinians, 'Arafat said: The Cairo talks constitute a mechanism to implement UN Security Council Resolution No. 904. He expressed the belief that this is a fair beginning, especially since this is the first time that there has been international protection for the Palestinian people and the holy places. He called on the cosponsors of the peace talks to assume their responsibility and coordinate and cooperate with each other to implement this resolution.

Further on Arrival Statement

JN0504170094 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Amman, 5 Apr (PETRA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman today on a visit to Jordan. [passage omitted]

On the resumption of talks with the Israelis, President 'Arafat said: The talks are currently taking place. He added: Concerning the Arab-Israeli talks, they will be resumed soon.

Regarding the Jordanian-Palestinian Jerusalem Committee, which the two sides had earlier agreed to form, he

said that the committee's work is not routine, but is related to an issue that is sacred to Arabs, Muslims, and Christians.

On his return to the autonomy region, the Palestinian president said: I am waiting.

Salim al-Za'nun, acting Palestine National Council speaker, arrived with President 'Arafat.

Meets With King Husayn

JN0504203294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The Jordanian side, led by His Majesty King Husayn, and the Palestinian side, led by President Yasir 'Arafat, held a session of talks at the al-Hashimiyah Palace today. His Highness Crown Prince Hasan attended the talks.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the latest developments in the Middle East peace process and Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

The prime minister, the Royal Court chief, and a number of senior Jordanian and Palestinian officials participated in the meeting.

The meeting is still in session.

Coordination With Israel on Refugees Urged

JN0604061494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] The Jordanian side, led by His Majesty King Husayn, and the Palestinian side, led by President Yasir 'Arafat, held a meeting at the al-Hashimiyah Palace last night. His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and a number of officials from both sides attended.

His Majesty King Husayn emphasized Jordan's position in support of the Palestinian people's struggle, and toward easing the suffering of the kinsfolk in the occupied homeland in preparation for restoring their rights on their national soil.

For his part, President 'Arafat stressed the depth of relations between the two fraternal peoples, and expressed the Palestinian leadership and people's appreciation for Jordan's constant support for the Palestinian people's just cause and King Husayn's support for their struggle and national legitimate rights.

The two sides emphasized the importance of joint action on all issues of mutual concern, especially the peace process and the difficulties facing it. They stressed the importance of consultation and coordination between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides on one hand, and the Israeli side on the other, concerning the issue of refugees.

The two sides discussed activating previously formed Jordanian-Palestinian joint committees, which include the Jerusalem Committee, the Administrative Committee, and the Economic Committee.

On the Jordanian side, the meeting was attended by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, prime minister; al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Royal Hashemite Court chief; Marwan al-Qasim, political adviser to his majesty the king; Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs.

On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Yasir 'Amr, PLO Executive Committee members; Salim al-Za'nun, acting Palestine National Council speaker; al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian ambassador in Jordan; and Faysal al-Husayni.

Comments on 'Constructive' Talks

JN0604123794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Amman this morning at the end of a two-day visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn and ranking officials, and held talks on the peace process and joint action regarding various issues of mutual interest. [passage omitted]

PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh also left with President 'Arafat.

In statements to journalists, President 'Arafat described his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn yesterday as a blessed, positive, and constructive meeting, especially since the talks dealt with Jerusalem, which is in our hearts and consciences.

He added: We discussed with His Majesty King Husayn ways to settle all important issues, and constructive cooperation in the economic, security, administrative, and monetary fields.

He said it was agreed that the joint committees will be immediately activated.

Asked about the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the date of his meeting with the Israeli prime minister, 'Arafat said: This depends on the results of the current talks which have been taking place in Cairo for the last two days.

He emphasized that the Palestinian side insists that the withdrawal be carried out as scheduled on 13 April. He added that the Israelis have begun to withdraw from some bases in Gaza and Jericho, but there has not been official notification of when the withdrawal will be completed in order to deploy the Palestinian security forces there.

He stressed that the Palestinians want the return of more deportees, saying there is no reason to delay their return.

Paper Views Need To Foster Ties

JN0604083694 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Apr 94 pp 1, 27

[Editorial: "Distinguished Brotherly Relations"]

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's recurrent visits to Jordan and his meetings with his brother His Majesty King Husayn reflect the distinguished brotherly relations and mutual confidence between the two fraternal peoples. They also underscore the importance of continuing coordination, consultation, and cooperation between Jordan and the PLO.

President 'Arafat's working visit yesterday came in the wake of important political developments regarding the various aspects of the Palestine question. This situation necessitated discussing these developments with the Jordanian leadership as is customary in accordance with the firmly-established traditions and characteristics marking the fraternal Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

The two political leaderships and peoples are aware of the need to intensify bilateral relations of coordination and cooperation out of their awareness of the difficulties facing the Palestinian action at this stage. These difficulties require entrenching unity of the Arab fold and fostering Jordanian-Palestinian relations in order to face the developments of this stage.

No Arab country is more concerned with or affected by the Palestine question than Jordan. Therefore, Jordan has always given Palestine—land, cause, and people—constant attention and sincere effort out of its eagerness to restore rights and lands to their legitimate owners and rescue the shrines, headed by holy Jerusalem, from impending dangers.

While watching the current developments of the Palestine question and while witnessing a turning point in the efforts to activate the first article of the Declaration of Principles, we, along with the brothers in Palestine, look forward optimistically to the day, which we hope is imminent, when the occupation ends and our brothers regain their freedom and right to self-determination.

Solution to Differences With PLO Viewed

JN0604090594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Apr 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Keeping the Channels Open"]

[Text] Despite the euphoria with which the peace process was greeted when it began in Madrid in 1991, no one expected the negotiations to bring about an immediate solution to the Arab- Israeli conflict. Nor did anyone believe the Arab parties to the talks will have identical approaches to the many complicated aspects of a conflict that continued to grow wider during the decades in which it has kept the whole region living under the shadow of war.

Differences among them were bound to develop, but common national interests and the necessity for a coordinated and unified Arab stand against an enemy which always sought to divide Arab ranks provided enough guarantees that these differences will never grow into major disagreements.

More than anybody else, the fates of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples are inter-connected. What happens on the West Bank of the river will have its reverberations in the East Bank. So will any development in Jordan have its bearing on the Palestinians. That is why it is so crucial that Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) maintain open channels and the highest level possible of coordination. Strong Jordanian-Palestinian relations are a requirement by everyone interested in protecting the rights of the Arabs, a necessity that neither side can escape. Only Israel would want the PLO and Jordan to go their separate ways; because only Israel will benefit under such a scenario.

Jordan has, throughout the peace talks, called for a strong Arab front in the negotiations, emphasising more than anything else the uniqueness of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. In words as well as in deeds, it demonstrated its support for the Palestinian people and the negotiating position of the PLO. But we will be fooling ourselves to say that differences between the two sides did not emerge. It serves no purpose to deny that the relations were at some point uneasy, at other tense. But, fortunately, the disagreements have so far been contained and the problems not allowed to grow out of proportion. From that, there has been only one winner: the Arabs, one loser: the Israelis.

Hence is the importance of the visit of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Jordan yesterday to discuss the Palestinian track of the negotiations with His Majesty King Husayn. The meeting would certainly help put things back in their right perspective and give a boost to efforts to have stronger coordination between Jordan and the Palestinians. The PLO can only benefit from hearing the Jordanian point of view on the problems facing its negotiators, and the Arab negotiating position can only get better.

Only through continuous contacts can Jordan and the PLO overcome their differences. Only by maintaining a strong front can the two sides make real progress in working to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people under occupation, regain Arab rights and advance the cause of peace in the area.

Paper Reports King's Meeting With PLO's Bal'awi

JN0504130394 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 4 Apr 94 p 3

[By AL-MUHARRIR correspondent in Amman]

[Text] AL-MUHARRIR has learned from well-informed political sources in Amman that the Jordanian-Palestinian talks held between King Husayn and Hakam Bal'awi, special envoy of the Palestinian president to Amman, have not achieved their objectives.

The sources said that the Jordanian monarch expressed to the Palestinian official his deep resentment of the PLO's policy of ignoring Jordan and excluding it from

any coordination although what is being discussed between the Palestinian and Israeli sides affects the internal situation in Jordan, in fact—as the king said—it is the crux of the Jordanian internal situation.

The sources disclosed that Jordan informed Bal'awi of its resentment over two press statements made by the PLO official spokesman. The first statement deals with Security Council Resolution 904 and includes "unjustified indications that would lead to an unnecessary dispute with Jordan;" and the second statement openly accuses the Jordanian press of being "a paid agent."

It is noted that while in Amman Bal'awi refused to make any statement or grant any interview to a Jordanian newspaper in an expression of the PLO's resentment of the unofficial Jordanian media.

AL-MUHARRIR learned that Jordanian officials indirectly expressed to the Palestinian envoy their dissatisfaction with the level of the delegation represented by Bal'awi himself. They told him that he is "from the people of this country," indicating the Jordanian diplomatic passport held by Bal'awi.

On the other hand, Bal'awi explained to King Husayn and to the Jordanian delegation whom he met the conditions surrounding Resolution 904, noting that the PLO is very much preoccupied and that most of the time it briefs the Palestinian ambassador in Tunisia on what takes place on the negotiations front. Bal'awi also said that the PLO's internal situation has brought the issue of coordination and dealing between Jordan and the PLO to the present situation.

Bal'awi also expressed the PLO's dissatisfaction with Jordan's decision to open a branch of the Bank of Jordan in Ramallah. He said that Jordan should have waited for the convening of the Jordanian-Palestinian financial committee to endorse such a decision. Bal'awi also expressed the PLO's annoyance at failing to hold the meeting for the foreign ministers of the cordon states scheduled to take place following the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo last week. Bal'awi accused Jordan of playing a role in this to exclude the PLO with the aim of forming a Syrian-Jordanian-Lebanese axis. The Palestinian envoy also discussed the Jordanian measures related to the movement of Palestinians in the occupied territory via the King Husayn and Prince Muhammad bridges.

The Jordanian side categorically denied that it worked toward the formation of a tripartite axis in order to exclude the PLO from any coordination, and stressed that what took place in connection with the meeting of the Arab foreign ministers is a declared Syrian stand.

Al-Majali Briefs Press on al-'Aqabah 'Seige'

JN0504190694 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Within the framework of his eagerness to continue the close contacts between the government and the

various political, economic, professional, and media organizations, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali today met with the chief editors and columnists of the daily newspapers. Al-Majali frankly and clearly answered their questions on all issues and events, including the blockade on al-'Aqabah port, relations between Jordan and the PLO, the economic and financial situation, unemployment, the media, and other issues of interest to the country and the people.

At the beginning of the meeting, the prime minister welcomed the media figures and expressed his happiness for such meetings to discuss all important issues. These meetings are a framework to build bridges of trust between the government and the press and will eventually benefit the homeland.

The prime minister reviewed the issue of the blockade on al-'Aqabah port and the efforts exerted by the Jordanian king, government, and people on all levels to solve this problem as a result of which Jordan suffered immense material losses which reflected negatively on the performance of the Jordanian economy. The prime minister noted that His Majesty King Husayn clearly stated that the blockade and harassment of Jordan contravenes its historic role to realize security, stability, and progress in the region and to defend itself against anything that infringes on its dignity and rights.

On Jordanian-PLO relations, the prime minister described the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship as distinguished and brotherly. He said that Jordan has supported and will always support the Palestinian brothers until rights are restored on the Palestinian territories. Al-Majali emphasized that Jordanian-PLO ties must be based on the principle of coordination.

The prime minister dealt in detail with Jerusalem and its religious importance to both Christians and Muslims, stressing that there can be no genuine peace without Jerusalem. He said that His Majesty King Husayn reaffirmed that rule over Jerusalem will be for God alone and that his majesty's call did not materialize from a vacuum but was in answer to Israel's claims of sovereignty over Jerusalem.

Envoy to U.S. on 'Siege,' Christopher's Visit

JN0604085294 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Mar 94 pp 36, 27

[By Hamdan al-Haj in Amman]

[Text] Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, Jordan's ambassador to the United States and chief Jordanian negotiator to the peace talks with Israel, has expressed hope that the siege of al-'Aqabah Port will be eased soon. He also hoped that practical alternatives will be found to inspect al-'Aqabah-bound ships in order to solve the 44-month old problem.

Al-Tarawinah said in a telephone interview with AL-DUSTUR that U.S. State Department officials have

always stressed that the decision in this regard will be positive and that it will be made as soon as possible.

Asked about the visit to the region by the U.S. secretary of state, Dr. al-Tarawinah noted that the visit depends on the results of the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli talks in Cairo and the final signing between the two parties. If the signing is decided, he added, it will be attended by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Dr. al-Tarawinah added that the Palestinian side insists that the signing takes place before 13 April, however, this would be delayed for a week. In light of this, the U.S. secretary's visit will be decided.

Dr. al-Tarawinah noted that the U.S. secretary's visit is expected to take place in mid-April. In light of the results of the secretary's visit, he added, the date for resuming the Arab-Israeli talks in Washington will be set.

Dr. al-Tarawinah expects the Arab and Israeli negotiators to return to the negotiating table at the end of this month if no new obstacles appear.

Al-Hasan Views Peace Talks, Ties With Gulf

NC0504162394 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 31 Mar 94 p 6

[Interview with Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, by Sumayyah Ahmad "during the meetings of the Arab Foreign Ministers Council at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo"—date not given]

[Text] [Ahmad] Why has coordination among the Arab countries involved in the peace negotiations stopped?

[Al-Hasan] We in Jordan have always advocated coordination and consultation with the parties involved in the peace process and are dealing with this issue seriously and enthusiastically. We hope that this coordination will be enhanced to become an established and firm framework, not mere seasonal coordination.

[Ahmad] The Syrian foreign minister has stated that the April meeting will decide whether the negotiations will resume. Is this your stance too?

[Al-Hasan] We in Jordan are committed to the peace process and to any meeting for consultation and coordination in the sense that I have defined above. We hope this coordination among the Arab countries will be established to reach a positive stance that will help to boost the peace process and achieve substantial progress in the negotiations.

[Ahmad] Will the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre have any effect on the negotiations when they resume?

[Al-Hasan] The massacre has undoubtedly harmed the peace process. We hope the international community and the cosponsors of the Madrid peace conference, most notably the United States, will pressure Israel to cease its arbitrary practices.

[Ahmad] How tense are Jordanian-Palestinian relations?

[Al-Hasan] Please excuse me from discussing this issue.

[Ahmad] But what is Jordan's stance on the recent Palestinian statement about Jordan's reservations over Resolution 904?

[Al-Hasan] Jordan has expressed no reservations about Resolution 904 but it has its view on the Jerusalem issue. King Husayn contacted some of his brother Arab leaders in Egypt, Morocco, Syria, President 'Arafat, and President Clinton before the resolution was issued, with the aim of obtaining approval for the entire resolution without American reservations. The king discussed Jordan's stance on Jerusalem. I have nothing to add.

[Ahmad] Where have your negotiations with Israel reached?

[Al-Hasan] We approved the joint agenda last September following the mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel. The Jordanian-Israeli agenda includes the principal issues, such as the land, borders, water, and refugees. We are discussing all the points with the Israeli side but Israel must agree to tackle the essential issues through which positive progress can be made in the peace process.

[Ahmad] Does this mean the negotiations will stall if they don't deal with a solution to some of the essential issues?

[Al-Hasan] The peace process has achieved many positive things but the essential issues must be tackled so that the peace process can proceed.

[Ahmad] How do you assess Egyptian-Jordanian relations?

[Al-Hasan] Relations are good and coordination and consultations are proceeding well. We always seek to strengthen this coordination. I discussed with my colleague the foreign minister and with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi several issues of common interest, including the two countries' higher committee.

[Ahmad] When will the committee meet?

[Al-Hasan] The date will soon be agreed through diplomatic channels.

[Ahmad] What about Jordanian-Gulf relations in light of King Husayn's recent visit to some Gulf countries?

[Al-Hasan] Our relations with Oman are always excellent and unique. Our relations with fraternal Qatar have reverted to their normal course. We hope that the

positive conditions will emerge to return Jordanian-Gulf relations to their former state.

Humaydi al-Fayiz Appointed Military Adviser

JN0404164294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] A royal decree has been issued appointing Major General Humaydi al-Fayiz military adviser and chief escort of His Majesty King Husayn as of 29 March 1994.

Maj. Gen. Humaydi al-Fayiz has occupied several leading positions in the Jordanian Armed Forces, among which are the commander of the Royal Guard and commander of the al-Husayn Bin-'Ali Brigade.

Transport Agents Protest Iraqi Contract Cancellations

JN3103125994 Amman THE STAR in English 31 Mar-6 Apr 94 p 1

["Special to The Star" by Bilal Hijawi]

[Text] Eight Jordanian transport and clearance agents have protested to the Minister of Transport over a recent Iraqi transport measures, which they say threatens to destroy the Jordanian land transport sector.

In a letter sent to the minister early March, the agents said the Iraqi Ministry of Transport had canceled all land transport contracts with Jordanian companies as of the beginning of January, once these contracts expired. The agents said while this measure was not officially announced, it was effectively enforced.

The measure, the agents said, is aimed at limiting all land transport contract rights, from Jordan to Iraq, to one Jordanian-registered company, the Iraq-Jordan Land Transport Co. (IJLTC)

The agents said they were informed of the new policy when they attempted to renew their bank guarantees with the Iraqi government one month before their expiration. Under the new measure IJLTC, a private shareholding company, will be the sole party authorized to issue Iraqi manifests in accordance with Iraqi laws. That authority had until last year rested with the Iraqi Ministry of Transport.

"IJLTC is thus given total authority as a legal department representing Iraqi government interests in Jordan," Mr. Uthman 'Azir, of the Orient Maritime Services (OMS), told THE STAR.

Another regulation names the State Enterprise of Land Transport in al-'Aqabah as the sole agent for Iraqi imports through Jordan. It will be responsible for securing clearances and transport of cargo to Iraq.

Palestinian Arms Caches Near Sidon Raided

NC0504175094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530
GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] As part of the military establishment's raids on various Lebanese regions, a Lebanese Army unit raided caches belonging to Palestinian organizations around Sidon. Sixteen caches containing light, medium, and heavy weaponry, along with a large amount of rockets and ammunition of various calibers, were found. The Army unit listed the weapons and began removing them. Six truckloads have already been taken, and work continues to empty the caches.

Hizballah Delegation Tours African States

NC0404181994 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 25 Mar 94
p 11

[Excerpts] A Hizballah delegation is touring African countries. After its fruitful and successful visit to Cote d'Ivoire, the Hizballah delegation led by Deputy Muhammad Barjawi arrived in Sierra Leone. The delegation was accorded a warm reception by a huge crowd of the Lebanese community led by the community's president, the Iranian ambassador in Freetown, and the imam of the town's mosque.

During the visit, the Hizballah delegation met the vice president, the prime minister, and Presidential Affairs Minister Colonel Jomo [name and title as published]. Deputy Barjawi and his delegation also met Hindolo Tyre, secretary of state for information. The two sides discussed bilateral relations and the status of the Lebanese community in Sierra Leone.

The Lebanese ambassador in Freetown hosted a dinner banquet in honor of the visiting delegation. Deputy Barjawi delivered a speech during the banquet. He said: We have come to visit our expatriate kin and to reiterate our cooperation and solidarity with them. We also urge them to increase their participation in the reconstruction process in Lebanon and support their steadfast kin in the south and western al-Biq'a.

Syria's Honorary Consul in Freetown, al-Hajj Husayn Jawad, hosted a dinner banquet in honor of the Hizballah delegation. Present were the Lebanese ambassador, the Iranian ambassador, and Turkey's honorary consul. It was an opportunity to exchange views and to praise the role of resistance in confronting the Israeli occupation. [passage omitted]

Guinea was the last leg of the delegation's African tour and it was accorded a mammoth reception at Conakry Airport. During the visit, the Hizballah delegation met the Guinean foreign affairs minister, the minister of religious affairs, and head of the Transitional Council. The delegation thanked the Guinean officials for the care

and facilities extended to Lebanese nationals in Guinea. The delegation cautioned against the Jewish threat to the interests of the oppressed nations, particularly in Africa.

The Guinean foreign minister welcomed the delegation and stressed his country's continuing support for Lebanon's issues and people until the liberation of the south from the Israeli occupation. The Guinean minister also reiterated his support for the Palestinian people.

Fadlallah Comments on Pope-Rabin Meeting

NC0504171694 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 25 Mar 94
p 10

[Excerpts] His Eminence Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stated that the enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to the Vatican and his audience with the pope "is an indulgence for the enemy absolving him of shedding the blood of 56 worshippers."

In an interview, Fadlallah said that when Rabin visits the Vatican and is warmly received, we want to ask: Is the Vatican a West European country like the others or a Christian mission? Is it operating in its capacity as the Church, guided by its Christian values, or as a state operating according to international balances? [passage omitted]

His eminence continued: The Vatican always spoke of internationalizing Jerusalem first and the holy shrines second. It also spoke of the freedom of religion and even regarded Jerusalem as its very own cause. This time the pope did not discuss Jerusalem with Rabin, as Rabin said. The Vatican did not deny Rabin's story.

Fadlallah asked: If the pope did not discuss Jerusalem with Rabin or the need to protect unarmed Palestinians by sending in international forces and if Rabin did not ask him to mediate in the negotiations, what was the visit about? The affair then represents an indulgence for the Jews and a new recognition that gives "Israel" new moral strength to add to the strength it already has. [passage omitted]

He continued: We want Christianity and Islam to be value systems that defend the wronged and oppose the arrogant regardless of the consequences. When calculations enter the issue, value is lost. If value is lost, what is left of the meaning of Islam and Christianity? This is not a position against Christianity and Christians. It does not deal with the pope's planned visit to Lebanon. We do not oppose the visit. We welcome some of its aspects. Undermining causes is a different issue. It is not an issue of a papal envoy sent to Tunis. A papal envoy should be sent to all those who lost their fathers or children in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, because it is these people who can utter the word of truth and ask: What is the meaning of the Jews' existence in Palestine?

President al-Asad Returns From Cairo Visit

JN0504144094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad returned to Damascus this afternoon after a two-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. During the visit, he held talks with Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Returning home with the president were Vice President 'Abd-al- Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Media Comment on al-Asad's Visit to Egypt

AL-THAWRAH on Arab Coordination

JN0504062494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 5 Apr 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Coordination and Consultation Summit", AL-THAWRAH writes: Inter-Arab coordination and national and pan-Arab parameters are cornerstones of Syria's policies. It has thus managed to scotch Israel's circuitous tactics and deny it the opportunity to take on the Arab countries one at a time. Syria is universally acknowledged to be pursuing sound policies. Syria's key role and objective outlook in peacemaking have been equally recognized.

Israel's intransigence, the paper emphasizes, remains the real obstacle to the peace process. Unilateral deals have been shown to be unworkable. Arab coordination and consultations, AL-THAWRAH adds, are crucial to a successful common approach to Israel's attempts at dividing Arab ranks and deflecting the peace process from its set objective; namely a fair and comprehensive peace—the peace of the brave, to quote President al-Asad at the Geneva summit.

Coordination and consultations between Syria and Egypt about the peace process and how to counter Israel's less-than-straightforward ways will go a long way toward forging a united stand as the Arabs wage the battle for peace. Only by adherence to national and pan-Arab parameters will it be possible to establish a fair and comprehensive peace and regain all the occupied land, free of any Jewish settlements, concludes AL-THAWRAH.

Radio Views Talks, U.S. Peace Stand

JN0504161594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1133 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Political observers have followed with intense interest President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt and his talks with President Husni Mubarak, especially since the talks dealt with all aspects of the peace process and ways of attaining its

objectives. It is known that holding Syrian-Egyptian consultations on hot regional issues has become a tradition in the life of the two countries. When these consultations rise to the level of a direct meeting between Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak, this emphasizes the importance of the topics under discussion.

In fact, the region is close to making a decision on the resumption of the peace talks in Washington. The parties directly involved in the peace are expected to hold a joint meeting to discuss the issue of resuming the talks and to emerge with a unified Arab stand. Consequently, it is natural for the two sisterly countries—Syria and Egypt—to hold consultations on the highest levels to assess the peace process and future prospects in light of regional developments and contacts with the United States.

It is common knowledge that the Geneva summit between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton has revived the world's hopes about the possibility of advancing the Middle East peace process. No progress has yet been made in this process due to Israel's intransigence and because the Zionist lobby in the United States has moved to disrupt any effective and influential U.S. role. The latest round of the Washington talks ended just as they started, without any significant results. Moreover, Israel has reciprocated the sincere Arab intentions with the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. This was followed by President Clinton's reported commitment before Zionist organizations in the United States to keep unified Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, in contravention of UN Security Council Resolution 242 and the policies of the previous U.S. Administrations, which refused to acknowledge the annexation of Arab Jerusalem and insisted on considering it part of the occupied territories. Afterward, the U.S. secretary of state expressed readiness to visit the region, but he said that he would not put any pressure on Israel. This is despite the fact that Israel's procrastination and maneuvering have made it impossible to make any progress. After this, the Zionist lobby in the United States pushed the U.S. Administration to adopt extortionist stands defaming Syria and aimed at dissuading it from its principled stands on the aspired peace in the Middle East.

All these issues and developments need meticulous Arab assessment. Syria has offered great services for the peace issue and frequently saved it from Israel's plotting. However, Syria does not negotiate for the sake of negotiations, but in quest for a genuine, just, comprehensive, and honorable peace that is based on the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions and leads to the return of Arab rights and territories. Syria has joined the peace process in the hope that the U.S. Administration will honor its pledges and play the role of a fair and impartial full partner. However, so far, pledges to play such a role have not been turned into tangible action. The talks are taking place in a vicious circle and Israel is committing massacres and crimes in front of the entire world. Meanwhile, the U.S. Administration refrains from condemning these massacres and crimes. Besides

succumbing to the Zionist lobby, the U.S. Administration has also placed Syria on the list of terrorism.

Syria adheres to the bases of a just, comprehensive peace as outlined by the Madrid conference, the UN Security Council resolutions, and the meetings of the Arab foreign ministers. Syria is not in the habit of giving in to extortion or relinquishing its own or other Arab territory or any national and pan-Arab rights. Therefore, Syria holds consultations with its sisters, in particular Egypt. As shown by modern and ancient history, Syria and Egypt are the backbone and main power of the Arab nation. The Arab people everywhere pin great hopes on coordination between Syria and Egypt and on their efforts to revive pan-Arab solidarity and unify stands. President al-Asad headed for Cairo proceeding from these bases and principles and in his quest for a pan-Arab position that maintains the Arab nation's rights and stresses its concept of a just, comprehensive peace.

Radio Reviews Issues

JN0504162894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad returned to Damascus this afternoon after a two-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. During the visit, he held talks with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in four meetings, including two closed meetings. [passage omitted]

Talks dealt with the world situation and with several international issues, including matters pertaining to the Nonaligned Movement and its future role and activities. They also dealt with the peace process and the phases it has thus far gone through, as well as the situation of the peace talks on various tracks, the obstacles and difficulties Israel is placing in the face of this process, and the ongoing efforts and contacts to place this process on the path leading to the set and agreed objective of the peace process; namely, a just and comprehensive peace. It was agreed to continue contacts between the two sides.

The two sides also discussed the Arab situation from its various aspects in light of the tasks facing the Arabs in defending both their pan-Arab interests and the issues of their Arab nation. Emphasis was placed on the importance of improving inter-Arab relations and working for Arab solidarity that serves the interests of the Arab countries and the joint pan-Arab interest.

The two sides reaffirmed their concern for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Arab countries. They reviewed developments in the crisis in fraternal Yemen, and reiterated their call on the Yemeni brothers to continue to work to circumvent the ongoing crisis and preserve unity. The two sides stressed their concern for the unity of Sudan's land and people. They also discussed the Libyan Jamahiriyah's crisis with the Western states, and expressed their sympathy with the fraternal Jamahiriyah.

The two sides reviewed the development of bilateral relations, and voiced satisfaction with what was achieved in terms of implementing both the instructions of the two presidents and the decisions made by the Joint Higher Syrian-Egyptian Committee. They agreed that the committee will hold its next meeting in Cairo in the middle of next month.

AL-BA'TH on Talks, Peace

JN0604071394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 6 Apr 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Egypt, AL-BA'TH says: President Hafiz al-Asad's talks with President Husni Mubarak have attracted much attention in the Arab nation and the world. The reason for this is the current situation in the region and that of the peace process. The peace process is still at square one because of the intransigent Israeli position.

AL-BA'TH notes that the two presidents discussed developments in the Arab arena, the peace process, and the obstacles placed by Israel in the way of peace.

The Arabs, Syria in particular, have done everything possible, in line with the resolutions of international legitimacy, so the peace process will achieve its objectives. President Mubarak has stressed that the Geneva summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton gave great momentum to the peace process. However, the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre obstructed this process.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Israel does not want peace. It only seeks agreements, such as the Gaza-Jericho accord, because such agreements achieve its dreams. At any rate, Syria will continue to work seriously to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, but for peace to prevail Syria must restore its territory in full.

Iranian Majles Deputy Ruhani Pays Official Visit

Confers With Assembly Speaker

LD0404173794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Today at a meeting with Syrian People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Deputy Majles Speaker Ruhani stressed the necessity for strengthening the parliamentary ties between Iran and Syria to combat the conspiracies of the Zionist regime.

According to a Central News Unit report from Damascus, at the meeting the deputy Majles speaker, who is heading a delegation in Damascus at the invitation of the Syrian speaker, referred to the fact the Iranian Majles deputies have always monitored closely the political developments in the Middle East. He said: We are

currently following up the plan to set-up an inter-parliamentary body from Muslim countries. Some Islamic countries have declared their consent in the matter.

At the meeting, in a speech, 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah praised the views of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, the esteemed leader His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, and the president, as well as the stance taken by the Majles on Palestine. He described as wise the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Palestine.

Describing Syria's stance on the political issues of the Middle East and the conflict between the Arabs and the Zionist regime the Syrian speaker said: We try to not to forget our goals and principles. Until the occupied lands of the Arabs are returned to them there will not be peace in the region. [passage omitted]

Meets Lebanese Hizballah Leader

LD0404155294 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] At a meeting in Damascus today with the leaders of the 10 Palestinian groups, Deputy Majles Speaker Hasan Ruhani stressed: The massacre of the Muslims at al-Khalil Mosque shows that the Zionist regime will never shed its savage streak.

The secretary of our country's Supreme National Security Council added: The demonstrations on International Jerusalem Day show that not only did the Zionist regime not achieve its cursed aims in the al-Khalil incident but that the affection of the world Muslims for the Palestinians has increased.

Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, the secretary-general of the Lebanese revolutionary movement Hizballah, at a meeting with the deputy Majles speaker this morning, thanked the esteemed leader [Khamene'i], the president, the Majles speaker, and the people of Iran for their attention to the justice-seeking struggles of the Muslim people of Lebanon.

Meets With Iraqi Opposition Groups

LD0504211594 Tehran IRNA in English 2000 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Damascus April 5, IRNA—Visiting Vice Speaker of Iran's Parliament (Majlis) Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Ruhani told a group of Iraqi dissidents here Tuesday that Iran felt itself obliged to support Iraqi Muslims.

He further expressed Iran's concern for the fate of the Iraqi Muslims and said the Iraqi nation would surely come to master its own destiny in a near future.

Ruhani, also the secretary of the supreme National Security Council, commented that the arrogant world employed all in its might to hinder the victory of the Islamic revolution and liberation of the Iraqi nation.

He urged the Iraqi opposition to have solidarity to get the best from the present conditions and play a more active role in the international circles.

Role in Mideast Peace Settlement Emphasized

JN0204195794 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 25 Mar p 9

["AL-THAWRAH Issues" column by Muhammad Khayr al-Jamali: "Syria's Dynamic Position"]

[Text] Dennis Ross, the U.S. overall Middle East coordinator, has emphasized Washington's appreciation of Syria's central and meaningful role in the peace process.

The renewed recognition of the Syrian role brings to mind the fact that there can be no peace in the region without Syria and that, with its intransigence, prevarication, and aggressive line, Israel is the only obstacle to the peace process.

That peace without Syria is impossible is now obvious. Syria's contribution to launching the peace process and correcting its course has been universally acknowledged. We now know with the benefit of experience that there is no ignoring Syria if the peace process is to be sustained and its objectives fulfilled.

If it were not for Syria's consent to the American initiative and its positive approach to all the efforts that set out to energize the peace process, the 30-month process would not have lasted long.

Syria has consistently been the party most committed to the peace process and the foundations and points of reference on which it was launched. The one condition Syria set for its participation in the process was that it be an effective framework and worthwhile means to achieve real and enduring peace predicated on principles of justice and international legitimacy. In other words, peace that assures all parties' rights—the peace of the brave as President Hafiz al-Asad called it at the Geneva summit.

The peace process might have made strides. If only Israel took it as seriously as Syria did and tried to approach the whole exercise from the standpoint of a nation interested in a just and lasting peace. In practice, however, Israel is using the peace process as a means to buy time and a platform to distort the foundations of peace and replace the Madrid formula with separate deals that can only hinder the movement of the process and whip up regional tension that could erupt in an explosion at any minute.

Israel has deployed all its practiced skills in prevarication, trickery, and craftiness to make sure that the peace process never moves toward its set goal; that is, peace grounded in the Madrid formula and UN resolutions. Having failed in its effort to bring the peace process to a complete halt or deflect it from its course, it turned to open aggression and crimes with the aim of destroying

the process. It is in this context that one can make sense out of the Hebron massacre and the ensuing savage escalation against the Palestinian people and the threats Israel is issuing against Lebanon for having spurned its blackmailing tactics and stuck to its national and pan-Arab principles. Lebanon is being targeted because it has opted for intra-Arab coordination as the road to a just and comprehensive peace under which national and pan-Arab rights are restored.

To break the logjam in the peace process and relaunch it toward its set objective will take a clear international stand in which the U.S. Administration plays a key role. Maximum pressure must also be brought to bear if Israel is to be talked out of its current line of aggression and crime and into an open acceptance of the guidelines of the peace process as laid out in the Madrid formula and its key component—the land-for-peace principle. There should be strict adherence to the substance of this formula on the part of Israel if a universal settlement on all fronts is to be achieved. Only such a solution will guarantee the establishment of complete peace in the region. The logic of aggression, crime, and occupation does not square with peace.

Paper Urges World 'To Curb' Israeli Practices
JN0204201194 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
25 Mar 94 p 9

["AL-THAWRAH Issues" column by Muhammad 'Ali Buzah: "Going Too Far and the Need for Retaliation"]

[Text] It seems that the massacre perpetrated against the Palestinian people inside the holy Ibrahimi Mosque last February was only the beginning. It was another test balloon through which the Tel Aviv rulers aimed to measure the international community's reaction to and influence on the course of events. Despite the existing peace process and all attempts at self-restraint by the Arabs, these events are becoming increasingly tragic and bloody and—due to the Israeli policy—are placing the region at the point of no return, moving it toward a catastrophic conflagration that could take place at any moment.

All news agencies and political observers were unanimous that the events that have taken place in Hebron during the past 24 hours and the large-scale Israeli military operations carried out by thousands of occupation forces—operations which turned the city that has been besieged for one month into a battlefield targeting congested Palestinian areas and in which houses next to the mosque were destroyed by rockets and anti-tank missiles—are a new massacre. These events and military

operations show that last month's massacre was only the beginning and that the perpetrator is different only in name. There is no difference between a regular soldier wearing a helmet and an armed settler. The settlers are the backbone and the reserve of the Israeli military force; they are also the spearhead and tool of expansion, aggression, terrorism, and organized crime.

The new massacre in Hebron coincided with the endeavor of the Clinton administration, in the form of moves by U.S. coordinator Dennis Ross in the involved capitals, to activate the peace process and to give momentum to the obstructed peace process, as well as in the wake of Security Council Resolution 904. In addition, the new massacre coincided with the feverish Israeli military escalation against the cities and villages in southern Lebanon. Israeli crimes and killings have reached even school children. All this does not hold out any hope that Israel will succumb to the will of peace, that it will respect the points of reference, that it will respect the resolutions of international legitimacy and its charters, that it will abandon belligerence and racist terrorism, or that it will restore the Arab's usurped lands and rights.

These events present new evidence of the aggressive nature rooted deeply in the Zionist strategy and of its impossible coexistence with peace. These events also emphasize the need to exert international pressure, to abandon quiet diplomacy, and to adopt the language of force in order to make the rulers of Israel follow the right path and accept the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace with which all occupation injustice and evils will end and rights will be returned to their owners.

Israel's practices and continued bloody terrorism have raised many important questions regarding peace, its feasibility, and the credibility of those responsible for implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy and for maintaining world peace. Israel's practices and bloody terrorism constitute a serious threat that needs a firm and swift response from the international community and the U.S. sponsor—whose role, initiative, and interests are being targeted—to champion credibility and resolutions that are still being violated openly so that Israel will not remain above the laws of the international community and above questioning and punishment.

We do not need to wait longer to see more massacres and slaughtering by the Tel Aviv rulers who kill every opportunity for peace. We, as well as the world, want to see the resolutions of international legitimacy implemented expeditiously in order to protect and secure the citizens in the occupied territories. A firm stand should be taken to curb Israeli aggression and to force it to withdraw from all occupied Arab territory.

Afghanistan

Two 'Fortified Positions' of Dostam Said Captured

LD0404202894 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Two fortified positions of Dostam's militia were captured this morning by the mojahedin and the forces of the Islamic army. Security sources reported to the BIA military correspondent that on top of gaining control of two fortified positions of Dostam's militia, capturing some strategic points, and killing dozens of the militia near the old town of Baghlan, the mojahedin and the forces of the Islamic army continue their advance toward the old city of Baghlan. In the course of this operation some heavy and light weapons of the militia have been captured by the devotees of Islam. Security sources added that due to the loss of the control of those positions, the moral of the militia was extremely weakened and that they mostly abandon their positions and trenches without any resistance and escape.

Hekmatyar Offensive Said 'Repulsed'

LD0404210694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] The offensive of Golboddin Hekmatyar's militia in Tagab was repulsed. A source in the Ministry of Defense told the BIA military correspondent that yesterday Golboddin Hekmatyar's militia mounted a sudden offensive on the front lines of the front and high points. As a result of the kindness of the great God and the valor of the mojahedin of Islam it was dislodged. As a result of the counteroffensive of the mojahedin of the Islamic army, eight raiders were killed, three were taken prisoner, and three others were wounded. Three rocket launchers, three PK machine guns, and 13 Kalashnikovs were captured from the enemy. According to the security sources' report, the Tagab offensive took place as a result of Dostam's request that Hekmatyar open a second front against the forces of the Islamic army to [words indistinct] on central bases of the militia in the north.

Hekmatyar Denies Fighting for Power

BK0304105594 Hong Kong AFP in English 1020 GMT 3 Apr 94

[By Terence White]

[Text] CHARASIAB, Afghanistan, April 3 (AFP)—In opening remarks during his first meeting with United Nations special peace envoy Mahmud Al-Mestiri Sunday, Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar claimed he was not fighting for power.

"This war is not for power, it is for principles," said Hekmatyar without elaborating.

Mestiri and his staff of seven UN personnel, including Sotirios Mousouris, Coordinator for Afghan Humanitarian Assistance, drove to Hekmatyar's Charasiab headquarters 25 kilometers (15 miles) southeast of Kabul to sound out the prime minister's views.

The UN convoy, which included local and foreign journalists, was blocked temporarily in Charasiab bazaar by banner-waving civilians calling for peace and the resignation of Hekmatyar's rival, Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

"Rabbani's resignation is a must," read the English language banners and placards, which could be taken as a clear statement of Hekmatyar's first political objective.

The armed forces of Rabbani and Hekmatyar have been battling each other most recently since January 1, when Hekmatyar joined the ex-communist militias of warlord General Abdol Rashid Dostam in a failed coup attempt to topple Rabbani.

"We ask for a government elected by the people and not by means of tanks and artillery," Hekmatyar told Mestiri, who doubtless observed the truck-mounted 122mm (5 inch) multi-barrel rocket launchers and D-30 howitzers as he drove to Charasiab.

In south and west Kabul the sound of shelling could be heard before noon Sunday, but in general the special ceasefire declared for the duration of Mestiri's visit to Kabul was respected.

Mestiri is expected to meet on Monday with Rabbani's strongman, former defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, and return to Pakistan Tuesday by a special UN flight from Mas'ud's Bagram airbase 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of the capital.

Civilians in Kabul have suffered the brunt of the factional fighting there, and are hopeful of positive results from Mestiri's visit, but it would be unrealistic to expect the UN envoy to conjure up a peace formula acceptable to all sides without further sessions of lengthy negotiations.

India

Officials, Media Comment Before ESCAP Meeting

Commerce Secretary Notes GATT Stand

BK0404135594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] The golden jubilee session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific [ESCAP] begins in New Delhi tomorrow. At a joint press briefing with the ESCAP executive secretary in New Delhi today, the commerce secretary, Mr. Tejinder Khanna, said India will voice its concern at the meeting over any form of neoprotectionist measures in the post-Uruguay round

of Trade and Tariff Agreement. He said we would not like any alibis to be trotted out to serve as a roadblock to global trade. The ESCAP executive secretary, Mr. Rafiuddin Ahmad, described the new GATT deal as a package of mutual benefit. He, however, said the member countries have to be watchful against any kind of protectionism and ensure that the agreement is implemented in letter and spirit.

Official Blasts 'Neoprotectionism'

BK0504051294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] India is to ask the ESCAP [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific] member countries to oppose any neoprotectionist trade barriers. Speaking to newsmen on the issues before the ESCAP New Delhi meet, the commerce secretary, Mr. Tejinder Khanna, said neoprotectionism should not be allowed to cast its shadow on the post-Uruguay Round of world trade [as heard]. India, he said, is opposed to creation of roadblocks in the free flow of global trade under any pretext. He said New Delhi firmly believes that bilateral and multilateral differences should not come in the way of regional economic and trade cooperation. There is also a need for greater interaction between the business community of the ESCAP countries without interference from the government. The commerce secretary hoped that the golden jubilee session of the ESCAP being inaugurated by the prime minister this morning will endorse our stand and establish a trade information network for the purpose.

The ESCAP executive secretary, Mr. Rafiuddin Ahmad, told newsmen that member countries have to be watchful of insidious attempts of protectionism in world trade.

The chairman of the session and commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, has said technology transfer is an important element in strengthening regional cooperation. He stated this is an interview with our special correspondent, A.K. Sengupta, broadcast in the Spotlight program last night. Mr. Mukherjee said the Asia-Pacific Center have been shifted to New Delhi with India developing an indigenous base for appropriate technologies relevant to the member countries.

Representatives of 48 member countries and 10 associate members will participate in the week-long conference.

Significance of Session Seen

BK0504074994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Commentary by Ravindranath Mishra]

[Text] The golden jubilee session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP, beginning in New Delhi today assumes significance as it is being held on the eve of signing of the

GATT. The commission, one of the largest of the five regional commissions, provides an opportunity for the governments to meet every year to review and discuss economic and social issues to promote and strengthen regional cooperation. Its basic role is that of a think tank and a catalyst for regional ventures such as the Asian Development Bank and the Asian Highway Network. It executes a wide range of programs and projects to stimulate growth and improve socioeconomic conditions. The present forum has created an integrated communication infrastructure for the Asian region besides conceiving the trans-Asia railway system and the Asia Pacific telecommunity. The Asian Development Bank also set up at the initiative of the commission has a big impact on the region's development.

During its nine-day meeting, the 48 members and 10 associate members will discuss key issues like strengthening of infrastructure, fiscal reforms, population control and development, environment, poverty alleviation, and waste management. The commission will have a special discussion on the problems faced by the least developed countries and landlocked countries. India will try to impress upon the commission that unprecedented growth witnessed by the ASEAN countries should spill over to other members of the ESCAP family. New Delhi is also of the opinion that economic cooperation in the region must get precedence over political issues and more importantly neoprotectionism should not be allowed to cast its shadow on the new GATT.

When the 118 countries are preparing to sign the new GATT in about two weeks time, the third world countries are appalled by the reported move of the United States to include nontariff barriers for exports of the developing countries. The session will provide an invaluable opportunity to these countries to share their perceptions on the issue and work out a common stand.

Rao Opens ESCAP Golden Jubilee Session

BK0504101794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, has cautioned the developed countries that it would be counterproductive to create problems for the developing countries in free flow of resources, capital, technology, and market access. Opening the golden jubilee session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific—ESCAP—in New Delhi today, he said the third world countries should resist any move to put extraneous concerns on the trade agenda after the conclusion of GATT treaty. He said the Western countries are trying to use social and environmental issues for nullifying the comparative advantage of the developing countries. Urging the rich countries to understand the aspirations of the Third World countries to catch up with the rest of the world, he said a great opportunity will be lost if instead of concentrating efforts to globalize the benefits from GATT, fresh impediments are introduced in the form of unjustified controversies. Calling upon the

members for adopting the real declaration on environment protection, Mr. Rao said it is a comprehensive declaration with a broader charter which not only addresses the present ecological and developmental problems, but also aims at preparing the world for the challenges of the next century. Appreciating the role of the commission, he said it provides a vast scope for mutual cooperation among the nations of the region in the development of infrastructure. Highlighting the importance of massive investment in the social sector, he said poverty alleviation must be addressed on priority basis, if the goal of sustainable development is to be achieved. He called for sharing the benefits of human capital formation and technological development among the countries of the commission. The prime minister urged the members of the Asia Pacific region to give highest priority and unconditional support to the imperatives of economic cooperation, including trade, investment, technology transfer, and tourism over the other aspects of mutual relations.

The Commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, was unanimously elected chairman of the session. His name was proposed by China and was seconded by Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Mongolia.

The executive secretary of ESCAP, Mr. Rafiuddin Ahmad, in his report to the conference asked member countries to remain on guard against imposition of new forms of nontariff barriers after the new GATT deal comes into force. He said already attempts are being made to impose restrictions to affect the exports of the developing countries. About the ESCAP agenda, he outlined an action plan for greater focus on infrastructure development in the region. One hundred and forty billion dollars will be needed every year to improve the network of road, communication, and power generation facilities. Since the external assistance will not be forthcoming to the required extent, pragmatic measures will be necessary to mobilize resources through private sector participation and efficient operation. This action plan will be adopted as the New Delhi Declaration.

Our correspondent covering the conference reports that Armenia has been admitted as a member of the ESCAP though it is not a part of the Asia Pacific region. This has been done as a special case following a request from the former Soviet Republic. Today's discussions are covering recent economic and social developments in the region and their impact as also the need for sustainable development.

Protesters Against Dunkel Proposals Arrested

BK0504102294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Mass organizations of the left parties today organized a rally in New Delhi to protest against the Dunkel proposals and the economic policy of the government. Several organizations like the CITU [Center of Indian Trade Unions], SFI [Students' Federation of India],

DYFI [Democratic Youth Federation of India], Janawadi Mahila Samiti, and the Kisan Sabha took part in the rally. According to Delhi police sources, water cannons and tear gas shells were used to disperse a group of rallyists, who assembled unlawfully near the Parliament House around noon today. According to a police spokesman, some of the rallyists were arrested while trying to enter the Parliament House building.

Commentary Defends Fast-Breeder Nuclear Technology

BK0604040494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Commentary by K.S. Jayraman]

[Text] The reports that Japan's fast-breeder reactor is expected to go critical should be good news to India's nuclear scientists. India and Japan appear to be the only two countries pursuing the breeder technology in today's world that has become hostile to this new source of electric power. The hostility stems from two reasons.

One is the safety consideration, because of the complex technology involved in breeder reactors. It is for this reason that France, which pioneered the breeder technology, decided to shut down its 1,200-megawatt fast-breeder reactor.

To appreciate the second reason, one must know what a breeder is. The fast-breeder reactor has a core made of plutonium fuel surrounded by a blanket of natural uranium. During the chain reaction, more plutonium is created in the blanket than what is consumed in the core, and hence the name breeder. One simply has to remove the blanket, extract the plutonium, and build another breeder with it or use the plutonium to build a bomb.

It is this possibility of nuclear proliferation that is at the heart of the American campaign against plutonium. In the United States spent nuclear fuel is not reprocessed to recover plutonium, and Washington does not want any other nation to produce plutonium, even for power generation, because of its fear that it can be diverted for bombs.

Interest in fast-breeders declined for yet another reason. In the 1970's it was anticipated that a spread of conventional reactors would lead to a shortage of uranium and make plutonium the fuel of choice. But this did not happen. Japan relies almost totally on the outside world for energy. It sees fast-breeder technology as a promising route to reduce this dependence. Japan's prototype fast-breeder reactor Monju will produce 280 megawatts when it begins full operation next year.

India's compulsion to go into fast-breeder technology is dictated by the fact that while its uranium resources are limited, it has large deposits of thorium, which can be turned into a nuclear fuel. In order to efficiently make this conversion, India has to build fast-breeder reactors with cores made of plutonium and blankets out of

thorium. India's fast-breeder test reactor at Kalpakkam, near Madras, is about 10 years old, but its power level is nowhere near the designed 40 megawatt. It has succeeded in convincing Indian scientists that the technology is difficult to master but not impossible to learn.

India no doubt is way behind Japan in harnessing this power source, but its consolation is that it is not alone in pursuing this technology. Whether India will be able to commit enough resources to pursue its goal like Japan is, however, a big question mark.

Israel's Beilin Sees Potential for Cooperation

TA0504064894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT Apr 94

[Text] After concluding his visit to New Delhi, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said that there is no reason for Israel not to sell arms to India. Beilin stressed, however, that he has no knowledge of any joint military plans between the two countries. Beilin asserted that the potential for cooperation between India and Israel is unlimited. The deputy foreign minister expressed the hope that India will become more involved in the peace process.

Iran

Clandestine Radio on Regime's Military Program

NC0504124594 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran
Kordestan in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Station commentary: "The Astronomical Military Expenditure and Reduction of the Oil Income"]

[Text] Esteemed listeners. The clerics' regime which is known to be a dictatorial, tension-generating one is constantly seeking to purchase various kinds of weapons so as to continue its evil actions, and it is expending astronomical sums for this purpose. In the past few years, the clerics have formulated and implemented extensive programs to expand their armed forces for the purpose of suppressing the discontented people in the country, and to continue their efforts to create tension abroad in the past few years. These programs required enormous outlay.

What has transpired on this issue so far is that right from the outset, the clerics' regime allocated nearly \$40 billion for this program and on the basis of the agreements, a large part of the sum has been used and this program is expected to continue in the future. At present, the clerical regime is seeking to implement the last stages of its military program. In the past five years, the officials of the Islamic Republic signed a \$10 billion agreement for the ordnance purchases from Russia, a \$3 billion agreement with the DPRK, and have completed a \$5 billion transaction with the PRC.

In addition, the clerics' regime is pursuing an ambitious scheme to acquire a nuclear bomb and it is expected to

implement this scheme in the next few years. For this purpose, it has initiated (?preparations) and is not stinting on any expenditure in this regard.

The regime's megalomaniac policy of generating tension does not take into consideration that it has already spent large sums of tens of billions of dollars from the country's budget for the purchase of miscellaneous weapons and is still pursuing this policy. It is also motivating and encouraging various hardline and Islamic fundamentalist groups in other countries which demands even more expenditure on the part of the regime.

The clerics have displayed particular generosity in this regard and have spent freely for this purpose. The training of agents and the establishment of terrorist networks in most of the countries of the world by the clerics' regime also entails massive expenditure. It is obvious that to meet these costs, the clerics' regime had counted on their oil income to a great extent and this income has declined considerably at present.

In view of the fact that the reduction of the oil income has not affected the regime's military program and its policy of generating tension, and as we can perceive, the clerics continue to pursue their policy of fanning discord and arming their forces more than ever. Even if Iran is an affluent country, one can foresee that in the not so distant future, it will become a backward country and will bring the people face to face with difficult conditions.

With the slump in oil prices on the international market and a concomitant budget deficit of 20 percent, the rate of inflation soared to nearly 30 percent per month. It is for this reason that the regime is unable to pay its installments and interest on the \$28 billion worth of foreign debts. In brief, the regime's purchases of ordnance and military equipment continues unchanged but the oil income has dwindled. There is no doubt that eventually, such a situation will be to the detriment of the people in the future.

At present, more than two-thirds of our people are living on or even below the poverty line. The regime is only extending long term promises of future prosperity for resolving these problems and is asking people to be patient and bear with them, instead of providing some solutions. In general, the erroneous policies and conduct of the regime has disrupted the lives of the people on the one hand and with the implementation of its military program on the other, it has created other (?problems) for the outside world, which will transform Iran into a center of even greater tension and crises in the region in the future which will have unforeseen consequences.

Majles Session Opens; Speaker Views Past Year

LD0404122094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Excerpts] In the first Majles session of the new year, the generalities of the bill for health service insurance were approved. [passage omitted]

Mr. Nateq-Nuri, who was chairing today's open session, expressed good wishes for the new year and referred to the guidance of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, and his excellency's stress on work ethics and social discipline and hoped that the Majles deputies, government, and administrative officials will look sufficiently towards a culture of labor and social discipline, and will work for providing better services for the people.

Evaluating developments in the past year, the Majles speaker said the expansion of Islamism and Islamization across the world, in particular in the Islamic countries, were among the political and social achievement of Muslims.

He referred to Serbian and Croatian crimes in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the massacre of Muslims at prayer in the al-Khalil [Hebron] mosque by Zionists, and the silence and indifference of international associations that claim the defense of human rights as the bitter events of the past year, and said that the destruction of the Zionist regime was the only way of solving the Palestinian issue.

Qatari Parliament Speaker Arrives on Visit

Meets Nateq-Nuri

LD0504110494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The speaker of the Qatari parliament arrived in Tehran today at the head of a parliamentary delegation. He was welcomed at the airport by Mr. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, the Majles speaker.

Mr. 'Ali bin-Khalifa al-Hatm said in an interview with our reporter that the purpose of his visit to Iran was to expand relations even further and said the visit was of importance to his country's officials.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri, for his part, spoke in an interview with our reporter about issues that will be discussed in talks between the two countries' officials.

[Begin Nateq-Nuri recording] We will discuss economic issues, such as the issue of the transfer of potable water to Qatar, which is a very huge project; the exploitation of a joint gas field; and regional issues and issues relating to the world of Islam and Islamic countries, such as the issue of Palestine and so on. Our relations with Qatar are very sincere, warm, and long-standing. Qatar has consistently adopted very good stances in international organizations—during the imposed Iran-Iraq war for example—and this kind of thing means our relations with Qatar are on a special footing and of importance to us. God willing, we hope that, with this visit by these gentlemen, these relations will expand even further. [end recording]

Discusses Ties

LD0504175394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] 'Ali Bin-Khalifah al-Hatm, the speaker of Qatar's parliament, met and conferred with Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri this afternoon.

At this meeting, Mr. al-Hatm referred to the long-standing ties between the two countries and said that the basis for fraternal relations between Iran and Qatar is their common religious and historical heritage. He added that one of the fundamental policies of his country is to observe the principle of mutual respect and to refrain from interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri then stressed the need to establish cordial ties between regional countries, in particular among the Islamic states. Furthermore, he said that the spread of Islam and the desire for Islam are the main cause of global arrogance's enmity toward world Muslims. He added that the ruthless massacre of the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina serves to prove such a claim.

The Majles speaker, moreover, criticized the double standards adopted by the world's so-called human rights organizations and forums. He referred to the horrific crime of the Zionists in the al-Khalil [Hebron] mosque, and stressed: The al-Khalil atrocity will certainly not be the Zionists' last crime. The only way to confront the enemies of Islam is by displaying unity among world Muslims.

He continued his remarks by alluding to the existing problems in the sensitive and strategic Persian Gulf region. He emphasized that the region's security should be safeguarded by the region's people. He asserted: In its attempt to create discord among the countries of the region, the enemy has entered the arena under the pretext of bringing about security, whereas in fact it is disrupting the region's security.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri also referred to relations between the two friendly and fraternal countries of Qatar and the Islamic Republic of Iran. He alluded to the religious, historical, and geographical traits that the two countries have in common, and said: Because of these common traits, and also because of the fair stances adopted by the Government of Qatar during the course of the war imposed by Iraq on Iran, the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves a special regard for Qatar.

The Majles speaker then expressed the hope that cordial and fraternal ties between Tehran and Doha will serve as an exemplary model for all the Persian Gulf littoral states.

Tehran To Help GCC Clean Oil Spill

LD0304103794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] The Environmental Protection Organization has announced that the oil spill resulting from the collision of two oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman is moving in a southerly direction and poses no threat to the coastline of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to an IRNA report, the official in charge of research of the Environmental Protection Organization announced Iran's readiness to cooperate with the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and other international environmental protection organizations in order to clean up this oil spill and said: The spill is moving in a southerly direction on the Sea of Oman from a point east of the Straits of Hormuz.

Gulf States Warned Not To 'Compromise' With Israel

NC0504175494 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 28 Mar 94 p 12

[Unattributed political commentary: "Innovation!"]

[Text] The trend of a compromise with the Zionist regime has assumed new proportions in the region, the first manifestation of which can be seen in the invitation to Israel to participate in regional sessions.

Qatar became the pioneer of this latest innovation when it announced that it had invited an Israeli delegation to participate in the multilateral talks on the nonproliferation of weapons expected to convene in Qatar in Ordibehesht [21 April-21 May].

Accordingly, Oman has also announced that an Israeli delegation will visit Muscat in the next few days to participate in a multipartite working group session regarding water resources. Thus, Oman becomes the first Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member country to host a delegation from the Zionist regime.

The following points may be noted with regard to this latest dangerous innovation:

1. It can be conceded without doubt that the convocation of the so-called experts' sessions with the inclusion of the Israeli regime's representatives has only one objective, that is, to pave the way for normalizing relations between the GCC countries and this regime.

This can be confirmed in the context of the remarks of an Arab diplomatic source who stated that the United States is trying to persuade the littoral states to lift the Israeli boycott in their multipartite talks.

Thus, the U.S. pressure to normalize relations with the Israeli regime has increased and recently, reports have been disseminated of covert contacts between the littoral

countries of the southern Persian Gulf and Israel. Thus, they are seeking to bring them out of the closet and make these covert ties overt.

2. In circumstances when the Zionist regime, officially and in full view of people everywhere, makes innocent Palestinian civilians wallow in blood and dust and when little time has elapsed since the al-Khalil debacle, what does the presence of Israeli delegates at sessions held in Islamic countries mean?

Is this anything but the treachery of these countries to the Islamic aspirations or at least Arab aspirations that have been bandied about for years?

What answer do these littoral countries of the southern Persian Gulf, which will host representatives from the most rootless and illegitimate regime, have for the world's public, especially the Muslims, whose hearts are still bleeding from the heinous slaughter of the fasting worshippers while they were prostrating themselves in the al-Ibrahimi mosque?

3. The Persian Gulf shaykhs have chosen the worst and most dangerous path for protecting their thrones and diadems. Permitting the ingress of the Zionists into the Persian Gulf region will not benefit them; it will certainly generate sentiments opposed to this action among the awakened societies in their respective countries, which will certainly not be very pleasant for their rulers.

The sins of the Persian Gulf shaykhs are unforgivable and Israel's presence in the region will never be tolerated by the Arab and Muslim public in the region.

Subservience to the U.S. policies on normalizing relations with the Zionist regime will harm all the countries involved in this trend, harm that will be too costly to redeem.

European Islamic Student Group Praises Khamene'i

LD0104141894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] The Union of Students Islamic Association in Europe, releasing a statement, congratulated, the April 1, the Islamic Republic Day to the leader of the Islamic revolution and the martyr-nurturing nation of Iran.

It has been underlined in the statement that the Muslim people and the world oppressed, adopting the Islamic revolution as a model, are moving in line with destruction of protectors of international plunderers' interests.

The statement says: The Iranian Muslim people, displaying Islam's superior power in the face of satanic powers, revived the rays of hope and freedom in the hearts of the Muslim and oppressed peoples adding to the level of their knowledge and vigilance.

The Union of Students Islamic Association in Europe, in the statement, called on the world Muslims to adopt Ayatollah Khamene'i's guidelines to pursue the sublime objectives of Islam.

Radio Views Success of Islamic Party in Turkey

LD0404203994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] The results of the recent municipal polls in Turkey and the success of the Islamic Rifah—Prosperity—Party in some of its cities, including Ankara and Istanbul, have (?entailed) sensitivity and reaction from the country's statesmen and government officials.

The Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, in a meeting with a group of editors from the country's highly circulated newspapers and magazines this week, stressed that the central government would not allow measures repugnant to its laic [as heard] policy. He said that the administration of Istanbul, too, is the responsibility of the government rather than that of the municipality.

Also, Turkey's interior minister, in a similar statement, has sounded a warning to the new Islamic mayors of Ankara and Istanbul, as well as of other cities in the country. He declared that they would probably be prosecuted in the event of not adhering to the policy of the separation of politics from religion.

Undoubtedly, such statements from Turkish officials arise from their concern over the impact of the assumption of power by the Islamic Prosperity Party in some major cities of Turkey. In fact the acceptance of such an issue—based on the secular system of government in Turkey—is something which can hardly be likeable to the country's laic circles.

At any rate, the reality cannot be overlooked that the outcome of the recent municipality elections has shown that, despite 70 years of sovereignty of un-Islamic laws and propaganda about secularism, Islamic trends in Turkey are on the rise and this is something which has put the secular government of Turkey at loggerheads with the Muslims of the country.

However, aside from the various reasons that have led to the recent election success of the Islamic-based Prosperity Party, which has been allowed to have political activities, it can be said that the frustration that the Turkish Muslim people have with respect to the potential of the country's secular and liberal parties in overcoming the social, economic, and political problems of Turkey has also acted as a main factor in shifting the voters toward the Prosperity Party. Now, in view of these considerations, the secular circles in Turkey are faced with the question and concern as to what extent the Islamic trends in that country are going to influence the economic, social, and political aspects in the future. Besides, according to these secular circles, there is no

guarantee that, during the future parliamentary elections, the Muslim people of Turkey will turn to the Islamic-based Prosperity Party.

UN Envoy Rejects U.S. Charge on Drugs Measures

LD0604102994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Our country's permanent representative to the United Nations described as deceitful the remarks made by U.S. State Department officials about Iran's performance in the fight against narcotics.

He stressed: While Iran has come under strong Western criticism for taking strict antinarcotics measures, the United States accuses Tehran of procrastination in the matter.

Referring to data and statistics and a report by the International Narcotics Control Board, our country's permanent UN representative said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has taken extensive measures to control narcotics, not only in the region but also globally. Tehran's investment in the matter is of the highest level.

The U.S. assistant secretary of state claimed last Monday that the Islamic Republic of Iran is taking no measures to fight narcotics smuggling.

U.S. Trade Strategy With Developing Nations Noted

LD0104161394 Tehran IRNA in English 1412 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] New Delhi, April 1, (IRNA)—The developed world, led by the United States is beginning to realize the possibility of losing its long-standing competitiveness in economy.

The economic regeneration taking place in the developing world, specially in Asia is giving the West a bit of its own medicine. Their products have been overselling the West's, thanks to their competitiveness.

Western economies under the spell of a major recession, have been attempting to look outward for enhanced trade to narrow their trade deficit.

Consequently, a great deal of effort was put into resolving the stalemate that Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) had come to. But while they wanted to pry foreign markets open, they were anxious also to insulate their own economies from the growing competition that newly industrialised countries were giving them.

A policy of "managed trade" was resorted to. It was thoroughly discredited as was witnessed in the case of US-Japan trade talk. The American demand for quantitative targets for imports by Japan backfired.

A more subtle tool is being used now. Developed economies today are busy laying the ideological foundation for "social", non-tariff barriers to trade.

As more and more developing economies modernise, industrialise, and compete in a wide range of markets with the developed industrial economies, two centuries of inter-country comparative advantages are going haywire. This turning of the table on the developed world, is only in part due to the lower wages in developing world.

But the West has made "labour welfare", its major plank for criticism.

The Uruguay Round of GATT is to be formally adopted in Morocco by the end of April this year. Although the Dunkel proposals for resolving the deadlocked was approved by all members, the US supported by such countries as France has made it known that, the social clause would be legal ground enough to ban import of products from the developing economies.

The US has contended that low wages in the developed world gives an artificial advantage to their products which amounts to "social dumping" in the developed world.

This move is extremely distressing. The G-7, especially the US and the European Union are pushing developing countries to see how far they will go in accommodating the former's protectionist moves. The inclusion of environmental protectionism, "green barriers to trade" and the threat of countering "social dumping" by banning products produced by cheap labour are the latest weapons in their arsenals.

But all these aim at undoing the gains of the Uruguay Round.

Such attempts by the West are not new. For over two years Western governments have been linking political, especially human rights and environmental issues to economic relations with the developing economies.

Developing world leaders have reacted sharply to the above moves. Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao made a hard-hitting speech at the G-15 summit in New Delhi against the unilateral interpretation of some of the provisions of the GATT against the interests of the developing countries.

He cautioned the advanced economies against putting up artificial barriers to free trade.

The Malaysian prime minister, Mahatir Mohammad, speaking in a similar vein criticised the West for resorting to measures detrimental to the interests of the developing countries. He urged all developing countries to come together to oppose the "social clause".

It is in this context that the final agreement in April on GATT, will be taken.

Chinese Official Calls Iranian Relations 'Unique'

LD0204165394 Tehran IRNA in English 1619 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] Beijing, April 2, IRNA—Chinese Vice Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs Qian Qichen in his meeting on Friday with the Iranian ambassador here, Mohammad-Hoseyn Mirfakhar, expressed hope that the developing countries would expand their ties despite the pressures put by the big Western powers.

He said Tehran-Beijing relations were "unique" and that the two countries pursued independent policies.

Mirfakhar referring to common interests expressed hope that with expansion of bilateral ties a new phase can be opened in Iran-China ties.

At the end of the meeting, Qian assessed the outcome of his last "satisfactory".

Pakistan

Army Chief Reaffirms Nuclear Position to U.S.

BK0504114294 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Pakistan has told the United States that it will never compromise on its vital security matters by unilaterally revising its nuclear program. This was conveyed by the chief of the Army Staff during his talks in Washington with senior U.S. officials including Defense Secretary William Perry, National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, and Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott. He made it clear that Pakistan will not consider U.S. proposals on nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia until India also accepts them. Bilateral military cooperation between Pakistan and the United States and cooperation in security matters also came up during these meetings.

The Army chief apprised the U.S. authorities of Pakistan's security concerns, especially India's increasing military capability, and its effects on Pakistan's vital interests. He told the U.S. authorities that India is amassing weapons, thereby widening the military imbalance in the region. It will harm South Asian regional security and further heighten the existing tension in the region.

Official Rules Out Rolling Back Nuclear Program

BK0304164794 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] The information and broadcasting secretary, Dr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan, said no country of the world has forwarded more meaningful proposals than Pakistan to make South Asia a nuclear-free zone. It, however, is regrettable that India has rejected most of these proposals. India is the only country in the world where the pursuit of limitless power is increasingly seen as a

religious obligation in the context of militant Hindu revivalism. Dr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan commented on a book called *The Critical Mass*, in which its two authors presented facts in a distorted manner, ignoring Pakistan's declaration that it wants to utilize nuclear power to meet the growing fuel and electricity demands in the country. Dr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan criticized the arguments of a specific circle, which is overlooking the peaceful nature of Pakistan's nuclear program with the intention of reinforcing its own viewpoint, to have strict restrictions imposed against Pakistan. He made it clear that Pakistan has no intention whatsoever of using its nuclear program for military purposes. On the other hand, he added, India has been adopting an intimidatory posture toward Pakistan. During the Cold War, which has now ended, India had acquired massive stocks of arms from the former Soviet Union and acquired arms and relevant technology from the Western countries. Under these circumstances, Pakistan's national security has assumed special importance and nuclear capability is the only effective means of safeguarding national security under the current scenario.

Tanvir Ahmad Khan answered a question about rolling back the nuclear program and said no Pakistani Government will be able to sign an agreement on the nuclear issue until a regional agreement is signed. This agreement must bind all countries of the region.

The information secretary said it is a matter of great strength for Pakistan that today it enjoys the leadership of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who possesses the full ability, determination, courage, and foresight to lead the nation at this time of difficulties. He said the opposition should cooperate with the government at this difficult time so a national outlook and strategy on the nuclear issue can be adopted.

Attorney General Explains Resignation

BK0504110794 Peshawar *THE FRONTIER POST* in English 5 Apr 94 p 8

[Text] Karachi—Former attorney general Fakhruddin G. Ibrahim has said that he has tendered his resignation on principles, terming it a 'painful decision.'

Ibrahim, while talking to *The FRONTIER POST* here Monday on phone, said the government did not consult him before taking the decision to single out the legal services out-of-office for state representation in the Peshawar High Court regarding former NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] chief minister's petition.

"They (government) didn't even informed me of the decision" Ibrahim said adding it had become a question of self-respect. "I had resigned from the government offices twice in the past and was happy, but this is a painful decision," he added.

To a question he said several PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leaders had contacted him requesting to take back

his resignation. "Aftab Sherpao, federal law minister and others asked me to take back the resignation, but now I cannot go back," he said.

He said prime Minister Benazir Bhutto had not yet contacted him. "I hope the prime minister would not contact me on this issue as I have written her each and every thing," he said, adding it would be embarrassing from him if she contacted him.

As for his future plans, Ibrahim said he was happy to be a lawyers. He also said the government should continue and complete its tenure.

Ibrahim had resigned as the Supreme Court judge in [year indistinct] after the promulgation of the Provisional Constitutional Order (PCO), imposed by General Zia.

He had also resigned as Sindh governor in 1990 when he was asked by the then president, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, to dissolve the then Sindh Assembly following the sacking of Benazir's first government.

Deputy Attorney General Submits Resignation

BK0504131994 Islamabad *THE NEWS* in English 5 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Within twenty four hours of the resignation of Attorney General [AG] Fakhruddin G Ibrahim, Deputy Attorney General Mumtaz Ali Mirza too has submitted his resignation to President Farooq Leghari.

"I don't want to say anything other than that I have resigned," the rather cautious Mumtaz Ali remarked when asked about reasons of resignation.

The move of the Deputy AG, viewed as a setback to the government, comes at a time when serious efforts are being apparently made by the top government officials to persuade Fakhruddin G. Ibrahim to withdraw his previous decision.

In his resignation letter, sent to the President, Mirza says, "I regret to say that it is no longer possible for me to continue as Deputy AG. Accordingly, I tender my resignation. You are informed." Government circles refused to comment on the resignation.

Libyan Foreign Minister Arrives on 2-Day Visit

To Meet With Officials

BK0404084894 Islamabad *Radio Pakistan Overseas Service* in English 0800 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] The Libyan foreign minister, Mr. 'Umar Mustafa at-Muntasir, arrived in Islamabad this morning for talks with Pakistani leaders on bilateral matters. On arrival at the airport, he was received by the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali. Later, the two foreign ministers held talks on ways and means to promote bilateral relations. They also exchanged views on the situation in

the region, particularly the Indian atrocities against innocent civilians in occupied Kashmir. During his two-day visit, the Libyan foreign minister is expected to call on the president, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, and the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto.

Meets With Foreign Minister

BK0404162694 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Pakistan and Libya have held wide-ranging talks on a number of bilateral and international issues, including Kashmir, Bosnia, the situation in Afghanistan, Palestine, and Central Asia. The talks were held in Islamabad today between the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, and his Libyan counterpart, Mr. 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir. The foreign minister of Libya was conveyed the gratitude of the Government and people of Pakistan for the assurances given by the Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi for full support to Pakistan on Kashmir.

The Libyan foreign minister was informed about Pakistan's efforts to promote an amicable solution to the issue of UN sanctions against Libya. The two foreign ministers also deliberated on issues about the ratification of the draft administrative procedures relating to the social security agreement between Pakistan and Libya, payment of disability pension to Pakistani workers, release of outstanding payments of various Pakistani concerns by Libya, and possibility of export of Pakistani manpower to Libya.

The issue of enhancing economic cooperation between the two countries also came up for discussion. The two sides agreed that the joint ministerial commission should be held at an early date.

On Support for Kashmir Issue

BK0504144894 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The foreign minister of Libya, Mr. 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir, called on the president, Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, and discussed matters of mutual interest. Mr. Muntasir reiterated his country's support for the just

cause of Kashmir and said over the years his country had supported various Muslim causes like Palestine, Kashmir, and Bosnia as a matter of policy. It was agreed that the two countries would endeavor to cement their existing cordial relations, especially through the joint commission. The Libyan minister also conveyed to the president warm greetings from the Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi.

The Libyan foreign minister also called on the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, and assured that his country would support Pakistan's stand on Kashmir issue at all fora. The prime minister briefed the Libyan minister on the human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. She assured Libya of Pakistan's support for an amicable solution to the issue of UN sanctions against Libya. The Libyan minister was also assured that Pakistan's permanent representative at the United Nations will once again raise the question of Libyan hajj flights with the sanctions committee. Mr. Muntasir proposed that the meeting of the Joint Ministerial Commission should be convened at an early date to settle outstanding bilateral economic issues and to explore new avenues for cooperation.

Iranian Minister on Need for Closer Trade Ties

BK0504100994 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] In Iran, a new national economic plan is being formulated which will greatly help in strengthening the ties between Pakistan and Iran and promoting trade between the two countries. This was stated by the Iranian deputy minister for commerce and industry, Mr. (Tala'i Zade), while talking to the members of Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Lahore today. He said joint economic commission of the two countries is meeting in Tehran by the end of this month to discuss measures for boosting economic and trade relations. He stressed the need for closer contacts between trade and business circles of both the countries for mutual benefit.

Earlier, in his welcome address, the president of the chamber, Mr. Bashir A. Baksh, spoke about possibilities of establishing joint ventures and bilateral investment treaties.